

Joker speaks up, says PPC will rule Senate

STORY
ON PAGE A2

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P15

Loi's phone rings to GMA ditty

BY CATHY YAMSUAN
AND GERALD LACUARTA

IT WAS the first time
that neophyte Sen. Luisa
"Loi" Estrada was
holding a press confer-

LOI'S/A12



Peso falls to 53.71 to \$

Dealers see currency testing P54 level today

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PESO yesterday fell to its lowest level since Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over the presidency in January, closing at 53.71 to the US dollar.

Dealers said the peso ended sharply weaker from 53.17 the previous trading day, dragged down by domestic concerns, including the ballooning budget deficit and the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in Basilan.

Losses in other Asian currencies triggered by concern over the fall-out from Argentina's escalating debt crisis also weighed heavily on the peso.

The peso traded between 53.28 to 53.71 against the dollar on a weighted average of 53.503. Volume at the Philippine Dealing System remained light at \$50.4 million, but slightly higher from \$46 million on Friday.

A senior dealer at a local bank said the day's moderate volume reflected a lack of dollar liquidity in the market.

"If you take into consideration the regional weakness, the Argentina crisis and the unresolved situation down South, it doesn't really help investor confidence. We won't be seeing dollar inflows," the dealer said.

Currency watchers said they expected the tight supply of dollars on the spot market to continue pressuring the peso.

"We still think the peso may have room to weaken. The market will test 54 to the dollar, since it's almost there," a dealer said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura ac-

PESO/A12

Palace tells unions: Go to wage boards

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA,
CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

MALACAÑANG is urging labor groups to lobby the wage boards for a P125 across-the-board wage increase instead of pressuring President Macapagal-Arroyo into supporting a legislated wage increase.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday maintained that wage increases were a matter for the wage boards to determine.

"If they really believe a wage hike should be that high and they

PALACE/A13



"IT'S A HORRIFYING experience for me," says Osin Abducarim (in white shirt), Basilan Electric Cooperative board president, who with Abdugani Abbas, barangay chair of Tabuk, Isabela (above), was arrested and brought to Zamboanga City with some of the 34 other suspects (below).

34 Abu suspects charged in court

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC,
JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday filed charges ranging from kidnapping with ransom to illegal possession of firearms and drugs against 34 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters.

At a press conference at the DOJ offices in Manila, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the charges were filed with the Zamboanga City Regional Trial Court. He also tried to allay fears of rights abuse, saying: "We welcome the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights to protect the rights of the people. The CHR should go there to protect the rights of the civilians."

Perez said the 34 people charged were arrested on July 13-15—six in Zamboanga City and 28 in Basilan—in the course of the ongoing government crackdown on Abu Sayyaf members and sympathizers.

There were actually 29 arrested in Basilan, he said, but one was released because of insufficient evidence. Only three of the 29 were arrested with warrants.

The 28 arrived in a military truck at the

34 ABU/A12



Time of death key to Aussie murder case

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

DETECTIVES believe that the time of death of Australian-Filipino lawyer Teddy Gonzales, his wife and their daughter may hold the key to solving the multiple murder case, two Australian newspapers reported over the weekend.

Police reportedly believe that

some time between 5 and 8 p.m. on July 10, the day of the brutal murders, "all four family members, including surviving son Sef Gonzales were together in their North Ryde home" in Sydney, according to a faxed copy of a news clipping from The Australian.

But The Canberra Times, which interviewed the same detective, re-

ported the story differently, saying only that police believe that Sef joined his friends in the city around 8 p.m. and arrived home around midnight to find his parents dead.

The Canberra Times made no mention of the detective saying that Sef, a 20-year-old law student, might have been home beforehand.

Copies of the articles, both dated

July 13, were faxed by the Philippine Embassy in Canberra to the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

Neither report said that Sef, who is undergoing counseling after the trauma of losing his family, was being considered a suspect in the case.

AUSSIE/A12

Jesuits say they're Ador's handlers

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

THE JESUITS of Ateneo de Manila University harbored Angelo Mawanay alias "Ador," an alleged civilian agent of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), for four days before he was placed in the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Fr. Carmelo Caluag II, SJ, yesterday

said that he was prompted to make a public statement to "set the record straight" and to dispel Sen. Panfilo Lacson Jr.'s allegation that Col. Victor Corpus, Isafp chief, was the "handler" of Mawanay.

Mawanay came out in the open to expose the alleged involvement of Lacson, former PAOCTF and Philippine National Police chief, in criminal activities such as kidnap for ransom, murder, smuggling and drug trafficking.

"Ador was looking for a secure place where he, his wife and two young kids could stay as he was about to make a confession about his alleged involvement in some criminal activities that would implicate some high ranking people," Caluag said in a news conference at the Ateneo.

The priest said it was Arnold Clavio of GMA 7 who brought Mawanay to the Jesuits on June 26.

JESUITS/A12

Ani to press death penalty for Estrada

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC,
JULIET L. JAVELLANA
AND DONNA S. CUETO

THE OMBUDSMAN, the chief prosecutor in the plunder case against Joseph Estrada, said yesterday that he would press for the maximum penalty of death for the accused, despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent statement that she would theoretically commute Estrada's death sentence in case of a conviction.

According to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, the prosecution has already gathered "sufficient" evidence to establish that plunder was attended by aggravating circumstances that would warrant the imposition of the death sentence.

"I will press for the maximum penalty of death if evidence of aggravating circumstances will be admitted by the court," he said.

Responding to a hypothetical question, the President told Japanese journalists last week that she would not pardon Estrada, but might "commute the death sentence

ANI/A13



"I DON'T know if his allegations are true or not but what moved me was Ador's two kids," explains Fr. Carmelo Caluag II, SJ, during a press conference on Monday with Angelo "Ador" Mawanay.

EDWIN BACASMAS



DI NA
JOKE YANI!

Second FRONT PAGE

SENATE PRESIDENCY

Joker speaks up, says PPC will rule

WITH less than one week to go before the opening of the 12th Congress, neophyte Sen. Joker Arroyo expressed confidence the ruling People Power Coalition has the numbers and the "moral high ground" to win the Senate presidency.

After weeks of silence over the Senate leadership issue, Arroyo said yesterday his bloc, composed mainly of former congressmen who ran and won as senators under the PPC banner, was taking an active role in the election of the next Senate president.

"(It's) the need to preserve the unity, purity and advocacy of the new politics by the PPC," Arroyo said, by way of explaining why he and neophyte Senators Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan have banded together.

Arroyo, whose candidacy for Senate president is being vigorously pushed by the bloc, debunked the tradition of first-termers not being elected to the top post or given the chairmanships of leading Senate committees.

He said 17 of the 37 committees are currently headed by Senate first-termers who were elected in 1998.



ARROYO

He said incumbent Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was reelected to the chamber in 1998, held its top post in his first term.

He said all the known contenders for the Senate presidency have approached his group.

He also confirmed an INQUIRER report that the newcomers' bloc was talking to the group of Lakas-NUCD senators led by Renato Cayetano about forging an alliance to win the Senate presidency.

Cayetano is joined in Lakas by Senators Loren Legarda, Juan Flavier and Robert Barbers.

An INQUIRER source said earlier the two blocs were counting on Senators Serge Osmeña III and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. to join, thus bringing their group's number to 10 senators.

Senators Pimentel and Franklin Drilon, who are both also aspiring to the Senate presidency, complete the 12 senators belonging to the PPC in the Senate.

To win the Senate presidency, a candidate must garner 13 votes from the 24-member body.

At the same time, Arroyo allayed fears the opposition led by Sen. Edgardo Angara will win the Senate leadership. Opposition senators were reported to have 11 votes so far.

"The opposition will not win the Senate presidency because we (PPC) have both the numbers and the high moral ground," Arroyo said.

"The high moral ground" was apparently an oblique reference to the PNM's association with deposed President Joseph Estrada who is facing plunder, graft, perjury and other cases before the courts.

Joe de V denies he made promises

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

REP. Jose de Venecia (Lakas, Pangasinan) yesterday denied he had promised committee chairmanships to congressmen in exchange for their votes for the speakership of the House of Representatives.

"What we are doing is evaluating the members of the 12th Congress to see who would be the most capable to head the committees," De Venecia said.

For this purpose, he said, he has created a panel composed of Lakas Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Joey Salceda and Rolando Andaya to screen the candidates for committee chairmanships.

De Venecia took exception to a statement made by Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noy" Aquino III, an Abad supporter, that he (De Venecia) had promised juicy committee chairmanships to congressmen in exchange for their votes for the speakership.

Salceda said it was the committee selection panel that would "systematically farm out leadership positions in the various committees based on track records, expertise, committee balance, lack of conflict of interest and seniority."

Meantime, De Venecia, who claims to have the numbers to clinch the leadership of the House, revealed the party affiliations of the 183 congressmen who have pledged to support his bid.

He said of the 87 Lakas mem-



DE VENECIA

bers in the House, 85 are behind him. Only Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar and Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier have opted to support his chief rival, Rep. Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes), he added.

He said all 48 House members belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition have pledged to back him.

Added to this, he said, are the seven votes from the Liberal Party, eight from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, two from Aksyon Demokratiko, two from Promdi, three from Reporma, five from Alayon, two from the Nacionalista Party and one from the Magdalo Party.

He said the rest of the votes would come from the independent, socialist party and party-list congressmen.

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Bishops for absentee voting

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to make the proposal on absentee voting one of the priority bills of the administration when the 12th Congress convenes next week.

In a letter sent to President Macapagal, Bishop Ramon Arguelles challenged the administration to certify the proposed law as urgent and "truly recognize the economic saviors and the

families they have left behind."

"It has been 14 years since the first clamor for approval by Congress of absentee voting as proposed in two bills—House Bill No. 10720 and Senate Bill 1746, which grants Filipinos overseas the exercise of their political right," Arguelles said.

"However, up to the last Congress, legislators have failed to pass the bill," the bishop said.

ERRATUM

Contrary to the published report in the Inquirer's Infotech section yesterday, Philippine Registry.com Inc., and not "PhilRegister.com", is the correct first and only ICANN-accredited Filipino company to offer domain name registry services for the new global Top-Level Domain (gTLD)—.biz. We are furnishing our readers likewise with the correct URL of Philippine Registry.com Inc. — www.philippineregistry.com

The Inquirer apologizes for any confusion the error may have caused.

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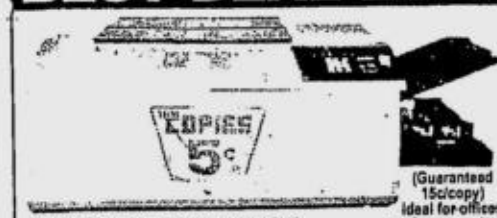


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Mike confirms meeting with cousin Gregg

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo confirmed yesterday he had met Gregg Araneta at a popular hotel bar more than a month ago, but denied that they talked about the Marcos ill-gotten wealth case.

In a radio interview, Arroyo said Araneta was a relative of his. "Actually, Gregg is my second cousin and that night our other cousins were also there, just relaxing," the President's husband said.

Asked what they discussed, Arroyo replied, "Nothing. What could we talk about when it was very noisy at Conway's. We were just drinking. I was just relaxing."

Conway's is a popular watering hole of the elite at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati. The INQUIRER had reported that President Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman had been seen in a huddle with Araneta at the bar on two oc-

casions—once in May and again last June.

Arroyo, however, did not say in the radio interview if the President was present on those occasions.

Former solicitor general Frank Chavez had said in a TV interview that five businessmen claimed to have seen Ms Macapagal, her husband and Araneta in a huddle at Conway's.

Araneta is married to Irene Marcos,

youngest daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos. The Araneta couple was recently investigated by Swiss and German authorities after they allegedly attempted to transfer suspected ill-gotten funds from Switzerland to Germany.

The investigation was closed, however, after German officials said the two did not break any of their laws since the money transfer was not consummated.

Juliet L. Javellana

No oil price hikes soon, says Raul Concepcion

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

AMID insistent public demand for fare and wage increases, businessman Raul T. Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, yesterday said there would be no increase in petroleum product prices later this month.

"The 18- to 25-centavo-per-liter oil price hike scheduled for July 23 will not push through," he said.

Concepcion said the break came about because of major oil producer Iraq's decision to resume crude oil production and the lower-than-expected demand in the United States this summer because of the economic slowdown there.

As of July 13, the average crude oil price went down by \$1.83 to \$23.82 per barrel from \$25.65 per barrel a month ago, Concepcion said.

In the same period, the peso depreciated by P1.37 to an average of \$2.94 to the US dollar, from \$1.97 last month.

A television news report last Thursday said oil prices would be expected to increase by 50 to 60 centavos per liter either in the last week of July or the first week of August.

But Reynaldo Gamboa, Pilipinas Shell vice president, denied the report saying it was mere speculation.

"We are still watching carefully the developments in the market, and we see that crude prices have stabilized," Gamboa said in a telephone interview last Friday.

But he also noted the "dive of the peso" in the past few weeks.

Gamboa said that as a rule of thumb, oil prices would increase by 16 centavos per liter for every peso depreciation.

He also said that an increase of \$1 per barrel of crude would trigger a hike of 33 centavos per liter in domestic oil prices.

But he added that the rule was subject to change. Pilipinas Shell led the last round of price increases by 37 centavos per liter on July 1.

Concepcion last month warned that the combined effects of increases in the prices of petroleum products and other basic commodities would aggravate the decline of the Philippine economy.

He called for greater transparency from the oil companies which, he said, should show that they are following the principle of "direct cost recovery" in pricing their products.

This means that actual changes in crude prices and the foreign exchange rate of the current month over that of the previous month would be made the basis for price movements, he explained.

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Scoring against sanctions

Iraq marks 33rd National Day

THE Republic of Iraq marks its 33rd National Day Tuesday (July 17) triumphant over its defiance against new American and British proposals that would tighten the screws on the country's economic activities in exchange for the entry of more consumer commodities into the country, which has been under severe economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council for the past 11 years.

The UN Security Council, however, has recently put off indefinitely the vote on the proposals after encountering stiff opposition from Iraq and its allies.

"The American plot has collapsed. The collapse is a victory for the will of our Arab people," declared Naji Sabri al-Hadithi, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs.

Earlier, in protest against the sanctions, Iraq halted oil shipments abroad, resulting in the increase of international crude prices. But Iraq is expected to resume shipments after the US-UK proposal has been shelved by the UN Security Council. Iraq contributes about two million barrels a day in the international oil market.

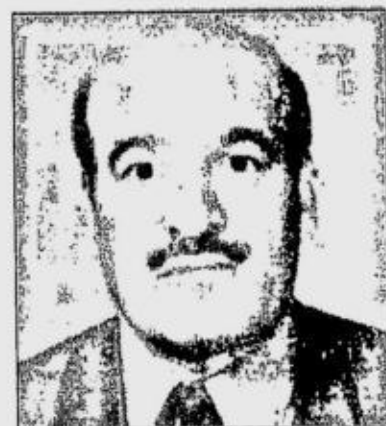
Called "smart sanctions" by its American and British proponents, the draft resolution allows all civilian goods into Iraq under the oil-for-food program. However, the proposals also expand the list of so-called "dual-use" items, which would effectively curtail all efforts at bringing back the badly battered Iraqi economy to its feet.

For more apples and oranges and other consumer goods, the resolution clamps down on the flow of oil money into the Iraqi economy. It also bans the entry of civilian items that "may be used for military purposes." These include mining and drilling equipment; tubes used in oil wells; communication equipment; high speed computers; trucks and trailers of more than 30 tons capacity; gravity meters; explosive charges specially made for oil well drilling, among many others.

"Our people call it 'stupid sanc-



Republic of Iraq President Saddam Hussein: steadfast against new sanctions.



Ambassador Salah Al-Samarrad

tions," said Dr. Salah Noori Al-Samarrad, Iraqi ambassador to the Philippines. "The proposal is to totally disable Iraq from survival as a sovereign country, and puts us completely under the gun of the Americans and the British," he added.

According to him, the proposal infringes on the sovereignty not only of Iraq but also of countries that import oil from Iraq. He explained that the new proposals provide that countries buying Iraqi oil should allow UN inspectors in their

territories to monitor inter-state trade with Iraq.

Samarrad also said Iraq is disallowed from using funds raised from oil sales in buying goods and services locally. "We are only allowed to use the funds if we buy from foreign companies, thus our local industries and enterprises will further suffer all the more," he said.

Iraqi leaders led by President Saddam Hussein strongly condemned the proposal, and threatened that Iraq altogether desists from participating in the oil-for-food program, the

sanctions regime that allows the country to sell its oil to purchase food, medicine and other non-military commodities.

Being a major oil producer, the withdrawal of Iraq from the program would result in lesser oil in the world market, and thus higher fuel prices.

"We will reject the so-called smart sanctions, which are more stupid than their predecessors, just as we did when rejecting all that could encroach upon Iraq's dignity, honor, independence and the meanings it has fought for throughout history," President Hussein said during a cabinet meeting last May.

He described the plan as "a kick of a dying mule which we should beware of, but it will miss its target, God willing."

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Tarq Aziz, having realized that the embargo is falling apart, has resorted to the smart sanctions ploy with the specific aim of regaining control of the region's affairs and imposing its will at the expense of the interests of all parties and friends dealing with Iraq.

The better times in Baghdad

By Danilo de Austria Consumido

dren and the elderly had died, because of severe lack of food, medicine and other basic necessities. Earlier I had visited a pediatric hospital where babies and children sick with deadly diseases, leukemia in many cases, await their deaths. The doctors I have interviewed were both angry and helpless, complaining of lack of medicines and facilities to save the children. Yet, according to them, only a little more than a decade earlier, their hospital had the best of equipment and medicines for children's illnesses.

Not only are the hospitals lacking in equipment and supplies, said the doctors. Many of the hospitals, they said, had to be rebuilt after they were bombed during the war, along with all major government buildings, oil wells and refineries, factories, grain bins, schools and churches. The bombs dropped in Iraq were equivalent to 1.5 kilograms of explosives for every Iraqi.

Two of the bombs fell on the Ameriya shelter, a civilian anti-air raid shelter built by the Finns that was supposed to be bomb-proof,

located in a residential area in the suburbs of Baghdad. The Americans first dropped a "spiral" bomb that bore a hole through almost two meters of solid concrete and metal. Five minutes later came the smart bomb that sailed through the hole created by the first bomb, and killed about 400 civilians inside, mostly women and children.

The shelter has since been made into a museum of the gore of the war, with imprints of little hands and feet splattered on the concrete ceilings, and pictures of the victims on the walls. There was also a negative-like impression on the wall, like a ghostly apparition, of a woman and her child who were vaporized during the bombing.

The young man said he used to sell secondhand furniture, but business has been bad, and he suffers some kind of ailment in the neck that needs laser treatment. He said he needed 60,000 dinars for the treatment, equivalent to about US\$30. Since the imposition of the sanctions, the exchange rate has been about 2,000 dinars to a dollar. It used to

"All that has been said to the effect that the plan will ease Iraqi people's suffering is a sheer lie. In all its attempts, the US administration has one aim in mind, to deny Iraq access to many equipment and items that may contribute to the country's advancement and sustain local industry," he added.

Information Minister Mohammed Sa'eed al-Sahaf also noted that "the new sanctions plan is inapplicable, because it is based on a hypothesis opposite to reality, which is twisting the arm or arms of states neighboring Iraq, in other words, blackmailing them into applying monitoring systems seriously violating their sovereignty and interests."

Elsewhere, the proposal also drew widespread condemnation from human rights groups and Iraq allies. Denis Halliday and Hans von Sponeck, who were both coordinators of the UN oil-for-food program but resigned one after the other in protest over the sanctions, issued a joint statement opposing the so-called "smart sanctions." The two said that the removal of the sanctions on Iraq is the only way to terminate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

In the Philippines, the Philippine-Iraq Friendship Association (PIFA) described the new sanctions as "a repackaging of death." In a statement signed by its executive director, Danilo de Austria Consumido, the PIFA likened the new proposed sanctions regime to the "smart bomb" that was widely used during the Gulf War.

"Making a bomb and economic sanctions as namesakes makes sense, in a way. Both kill. The fact is, the latter is far more lethal. The economic sanctions have already killed about two million civilians in Iraq, mostly children and the elderly, during the past 11 years," the group said.

"The new sanctions are like, as in America's favorite fairy tale 'The Sleeping Beauty,' the proposition of the witch for her poisonous apple," PIFA declared.

be a dinar to three American dollars.

Better times were probably when, as the doctors in the pediatric hospital recalled, Iraq had the best state medical services among the Gulf countries. Iraq also claims to have the best education program in the Arab world, offering free education from elementary to college. The best proof of this is the proliferation of PhD graduates even among minor government functionaries, and many double-degree college graduates moonlighting as taxi drivers under the sanctions regime.

Better times were probably when there were no queues for food and rations, and there were no beggars in the streets.

Or when the poets of Baghdad basked in their culture of more than 7,000 years, which the Americans tried to erase by bombing ancient buildings, museums, mosques and churches and even what remains of the House of Abraham. Now the Iraqi poets seethe in anger, their metaphors like poisoned arrows aimed at the infidels.

THE YOUNG man smiled again when I reached for the slim glass containing the tea. It was still warm. I drank it in one gulp. It tasted mint. I felt better.

Despite embargo

Iraq is a lucrative market

IN THE COLD Iraqi outpost of Trebil near the border of Jordan and Iraq at half past midnight in late October last year, Murtaza Lakani, a Pakistani trader, talked breezily about the \$100 million worth of bids he had tendered under food-for-oil program that has been the main eco-

WN Security Council 11 years ago on Iraq is waning. According to organizers, the number of participants to the exhibitions equaled the years prior to the imposition of the sanctions. Countries like France, which had previously supported the sanctions, Italy, Germany, Russia, China, "humanitarian program" to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people while the country is under comprehensive economic embargo.

Widely criticized for its failure in its "humanitarian" intentions, the food-for-oil program is blamed for causing massive short-



Our man in Baghdad. Philippine Ambassador to Iraq Reynaldo "Boy" Parungao (in barong tagalog) welcomes a visitor to the Philippine booth at the Baghdad International Trade Exhibitions held late last year. Parungao is leading efforts at resuming trade between the Philippines and Iraq, which has been frozen by the UN embargo against Iraq. Parungao's efforts are about to bear fruit, as a big delegation of Filipino business representatives are scheduled to visit Baghdad late this month.

omic lifeline for Iraq under the comprehensive economic embargo imposed by the United Nations since the Gulf War. In the spartan immigration reception area, Arab and European businessmen sipped tea in small slender glasses as they wait for the processing of their entry papers.

Outside, trailers, cargo trucks and vans overloaded with machines and products destined to the Baghdad International Trade Fair hum incessantly. It was the busiest and longest night of the year for the border immigration and customs office. The fair was to open the next day.

"See me in my office in Baghdad," said Lakani to Raul de Vera, one of only two Filipino businessmen who were travelling for the fair. De Vera, who was trying to bring in agriculture machines and herbal cosmetic products, was still in awe about the figures Lakani had casually mentioned, as the Pakistani bade goodbye.

The fair, held November 1-10, drew the participation of 45 countries, 10 more than the number of country participants the previous year - and indication that the comprehensive economic sanctions imposed by the

India, Turkey and many others have occupied entire pavilions, exhibiting state-of-the-art machineries, tanker-trucks, buses, construction and electrical materials and many others, all of them anticipating that Iraq would go on a rebuilding frenzy once the sanctions are lifted.

Other Asian countries like Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines also participated. Diplomats have said that the Baghdad fair can already rival the Hannover Fair in Germany.

While tens of thousands of Iraqis gaze at the products that their country could have easily acquired sans the restrictions of the embargo, representatives of the foreign exhibitors were crowding the offices of the Ministry of Trade a few kilometers from the exhibition site, hopeful of contracts from the Iraqi government.

Iraq can only trade under the full watch of the UN. The embargo allows Iraq to sell its oil, and all sales proceeds are held in escrow by the UN. Contracts entered into by Iraq on the purchase of essential products like food, medicine and supplies are paid by the UN from the oil fund, under the oil-for-food program, supposedly a

ages of consumer and industrial supplies, causing death and hunger among the people and displacement of many local industries.

In an effort to placate global displeasure over the sanctions, the United States and United Kingdom recently proposed for revisions of the sanctions. Osensibly lifting restrictions on all civilian and non-military commodities, the proposals, however, would further restrict Iraqi oil trade by setting quantitative limitations to shipments to traditional Iraqi oil buyers.

The proposals also allow UN inspectors to monitor the oil shipments even in the destination countries. Even under very difficult circumstances, Iraq remains a lucrative market. The trade exhibitions seemed to have resulted in hundreds of millions of contracts awarded to various foreign suppliers.

Lakani, the Pakistani businessman, would later meet de Vera again at the Philippine embassy in Baghdad. As breezily as he talked about the \$100 million bids he was following up two weeks earlier, he casually mentioned to the Filipino businessman that he got a total of \$900 million in contracts.

What about international law and compassion?

By Hans von Sponeck and Dennis Halliday

(Former chief coordinators for the UN food-for-oil program in Iraq who both resigned in protest over the suffering caused by the sanctions.)

THE conveyor belt theory that economic pressure will produce political change has once again proved to be false. A change in government has not taken place but the conditions of life facing civilian Iraq today are desperate, far worse than what senior UN officials described already in 1991 as apocalyptic.

At the end of World War II, a Marshall Plan came to the rescue of Europe after years of war. At the end of Operation Desert Storm in 1991 following the earlier Iran-Iraq war of eight years, Iraqis were sentenced to the most comprehensive sanctions ever extended by the international community to a country. Not surprising, the human costs for a decade of failure are horrendous.

Today Iraq has the dubious distinction of being the country with the highest increase in child mortality during the period of 1990-99 of all the 188 countries surveyed according to a UNICEF report released in December 2000.

As two former Humanitarian Coordinators who have lived in Iraq for lengthy periods and who have had the rare opportunity to see conditions on the ground and interact with Iraqi officials and normal citizens, we would like to express our deep apprehension over the current UN-US proposals for a new international policy on Iraq.

What is proposed as an international road map for change seemingly suggests a well-surfaced international highway to civilian recovery. The brutal truth is that the road is full of potholes.

The US State Department and the British Foreign Office must be aware that eventually the "true story" will come out just as in the cases of China and Vietnam. The tragedy is that it will come

too late for millions of Iraqis who will have died or become permanently disabled by self-serving and dishonest policies of others.

Our first concern is that the international community and the Iraqi authorities do whatever is in their power to allow the restoration of genuine socio-economic normalcy and dignity of life in Iraq.

The proposals the UK has made to the UN Security Council will, as presently foreseen, not lead at all to a betterment of the human condition in Iraq. An enlarged "green list" of items which can come into the country more freely does not constitute a removal of external restrictions on a normal civilian life. Only the full lifting of the economic embargo will contribute to this.

What is proposed at this point in fact amounts to a tightening of the rope around the neck of the average Iraqi citizen. The question that needs an answer is: how much does it cost to run a nation, particularly a nation disabled by ten years of sanctions? Where should resource come from for the maintenance of Iraqi roads, ports, bridges and railways? What about money for the civil service, the payment of teachers, or for the up-keep of hospitals and schools?

Sanctions regulations do not permit any funding for such purposes. Does this not put into perspective the amounts of money the Iraqi government obtains in addition to the legal sale of oil?

The proposed "civilian-friendly" new policy for Iraq is trying to eliminate this source of revenue. If successful, it will deepen, not lessen the suffering of the Iraqi people.

US and UK representatives at the UN Security Council argue that their proposals are tantamount to lifting most, if not all, restrictions on the import of civilian goods. Consequently, any continued suffering by the Iraqi people will be on account of the government of Baghdad.

This is not only false but malicious. A genuine international contribution to ending the tragedy in Iraq will only come when the economic sanctions are lifted. The status of a hand-out society will only end when Iraq's economic engine is running again and when people have a chance to fend for themselves, rather than waiting for the monthly food basket.

Without foreign investment of financial and human resources, this will not happen nor will it happen as long as the Iraqi oil revenue is managed from outside.

The so-called "new" sanction policy maintains the old bridgeheads of the current sanction regime: the oil escrow account remains with the UN, market-based foreign investment in Iraq will not be allowed and an oil-for-food programme stays in the hands of the UN.

The smell is of diluted wine in the same restricted bottle. No reasonable person will want to drink it and the Iraqi government will refuse to pay for it. For the Iraqi people with an immune system, which has all but disappeared, it will be fatal.

Ultimately, this circuitous approach in dealing with Iraq is based on the pretension that Iraq still constitutes a military threat. The anti-Iraq lobby has tried hard to suggest that major recent acts of terrorism have an Iraq connection.

No facts are offered. All this is designed to justify a policy of punishment of a nation for having failed to get rid of its leader.

Iraq today is no longer a military threat to anyone. Intelligence agencies know this. All the conjectures about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq lack evidence. William Cohen was therefore right when he conveyed to incoming President Bush on 10 January that "Iraq no longer poses a military threat to its neighbors."

The new majority leader of the US House of Representatives, Tom Daschle, in talking about Middle East referred to the need for compromise. The cornerstone of such compromise has to be all parties accept the principle of dialogue. The second round of talks between the UN Secretary General and an Iraqi delegation is an important step towards a fuller dialogue with the UN Security Council.

The US-UK governments have the position papers presented by the Iraqi Foreign Minister Al-Sahaf to Secretary General Annan in February. A full dialogue must begin with a substantive, not political, reaction by the UN Security Council to these papers. This would set the stage for a review of all outstanding matters for missing POWs to compensation payments and disarmament.

If there is an honest concern for the welfare of the Iraqi people, then there must also be a sense of urgency in finding a humane way out of the present political cul-de-sac. Let not hate but sympathy for a human catastrophe be the guide for the next steps.

If we can save the whales and the apes, why not the children?



This child, barely a boy, died along with more than 400 people, mostly children, when American planes bombed the Ameriya shelter in Baghdad, Iraq on Nov. 13, 1991.

Today, 6,000 children die every month because of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council on Iraq.

Save the children of Iraq. Lift the embargo now.

Philippine-Iraq Friendship Association (PIFA)

No cause for panic over soy sauce

"THERE is no cause for panic." Nor is there an immediate need to pull out 22 sauces and other condiments from supermarket shelves even after these were reported to have high levels of a cancer-causing flavor enhancer, said Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Dayrit said the food products in question have yet to be proven carcinogenic, or cancer-causing agents, among humans. "So far, it has only been proven to be cancerous in laboratory animals. There is still no need to pull out the condiments from the market," the health chief said in a statement released by the health department's public information office.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas sounded the alarm the other day against using 22 brands of Asian seasonings and sauces which Britain's Food Standards Agency had warned contained high levels of the chemical 3-MCPD, a component of hydrolyzed

vegetable protein commonly used to flavor food products. High levels of 3-MCPD are feared to cause cancer. Dayrit said studies were still needed to determine if the levels of 3-MCPD found in food condiments were enough to cause cancer among humans. *Norman Bordadora*

Pagcor casinos post record gross

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp earned an all-time high of P1.5 billion in June, which is 10 percent higher than the target. The state-run gaming corporation made the announcement yesterday on the heels of the decision of the Department of Finance not to privatize Pagcor or to offer stocks to the public.

"This means that Pagcor will continue to be run by the government and all its earnings will go to the government and benefit the Filipino people, especially the poor and the less fortunate," Pagcor Chair Efraim C. Genuino said.

In a press statement, Genuino said this revenue milestone could be attributed to the impressive performance of the state-gaming firm's 12 Casino Filipino branches.

He said Pagcor casinos posted combined winnings of P1.36 billion in June, the highest ever in its gaming operations. That raised Pagcor's gross revenues to almost P8.3 billion for the first

half of the year, which is P1.3 billion or 18 percent higher than last year's first semester gross of P7 billion.

It was the second time that Pagcor registered a record-breaking monthly income under its new management. In April, Pagcor earned total revenues of P1.39 billion.

With its hefty revenues, Pagcor said it managed to contribute P4.95 billion to the government treasury and other beneficiaries.

The biggest recipient of Pagcor earnings during the six-month period was the National Treasury, which got P4.1 billion. The amount becomes part of the national budget for appropriation every year by Congress.

Other Pagcor beneficiaries were the Philippine Sports Commission which received P176 million; Board of Claims, P4.79 million; Department of Science and Technology, P7 million; local government units hosting Pagcor casinos, P180 million; and the Social Fund of the Office of the President, P479 million.

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E-hoaxes and e-scams

LAST WEEK we were had. Or more precisely, one of our reporters, who also writes a column, was had. She fell victim to a hoax on the Internet. A media colleague of hers who now works with Channel News Asia e-mailed her an item which she read on the Internet saying that Art Bell, a radio talk host, said nasty, racist things about Filipinos on his program which is aired in the United States.

EDITORIAL

The writer-columnist wrote about what Bell reportedly said on his program. The Entertainment editor made the column item the lead item and the banner story on the Entertainment page. Because the item was picked up by INQ7.net and placed on its website, it was read by tens of thousands of Filipinos and foreigners here and abroad. Hundreds of Filipinos here and abroad wrote hate mail to Art Bell and some of them even threatened him and his family with harm, according to Bell's lawyers.

The senior editors and the readers' advocate conducted an inquiry and found that the item about Art Bell was indeed a hoax. The INQUIRER as a corporate entity apologized to Bell in the same column where the erroneous item had appeared. The columnist also apologized and her apology was in the headline of the column for that day.

The error was deemed so serious by the editors that they served "explain why" letters to the columnist and the Entertainment editor. If they find the explanations of the two unsatisfactory, they will be sanctioned according to a scale of penalties provided for by the Inquirer Code of Discipline.

The item was also the subject of two Editorial Assessment Meetings held last Monday and yesterday. The editors yesterday discussed a draft rule on information obtained over the new electronic and communication media. It will be incorporated in the Inquirer Manual of Editorial Policies.

Why did the Entertainment reporter-columnist fall for the Art Bell hoax? Apparently, she thought that it was a real piece of news, having been posted on the Internet and relayed to her by media colleague who was once a reporter for the ABS-CBN network. Her nationalistic feeling was pricked by the racist things that Art Bell said in his radio program, and so she decided to bring them to the attention of her readers.

It turned out that the report was not true, that Bell never uttered any such things. Bell's lawyers said he denied that rumor more than two years ago. They said Bell could not have uttered such racist remarks because his wife is half-Filipino.

One editor was for treating the erring reporter-columnist with some consideration and compassion. The editor said that the Internet is a relatively new medium and probably the reporter-columnist was not aware that hoaxes and scams were also being posted there.

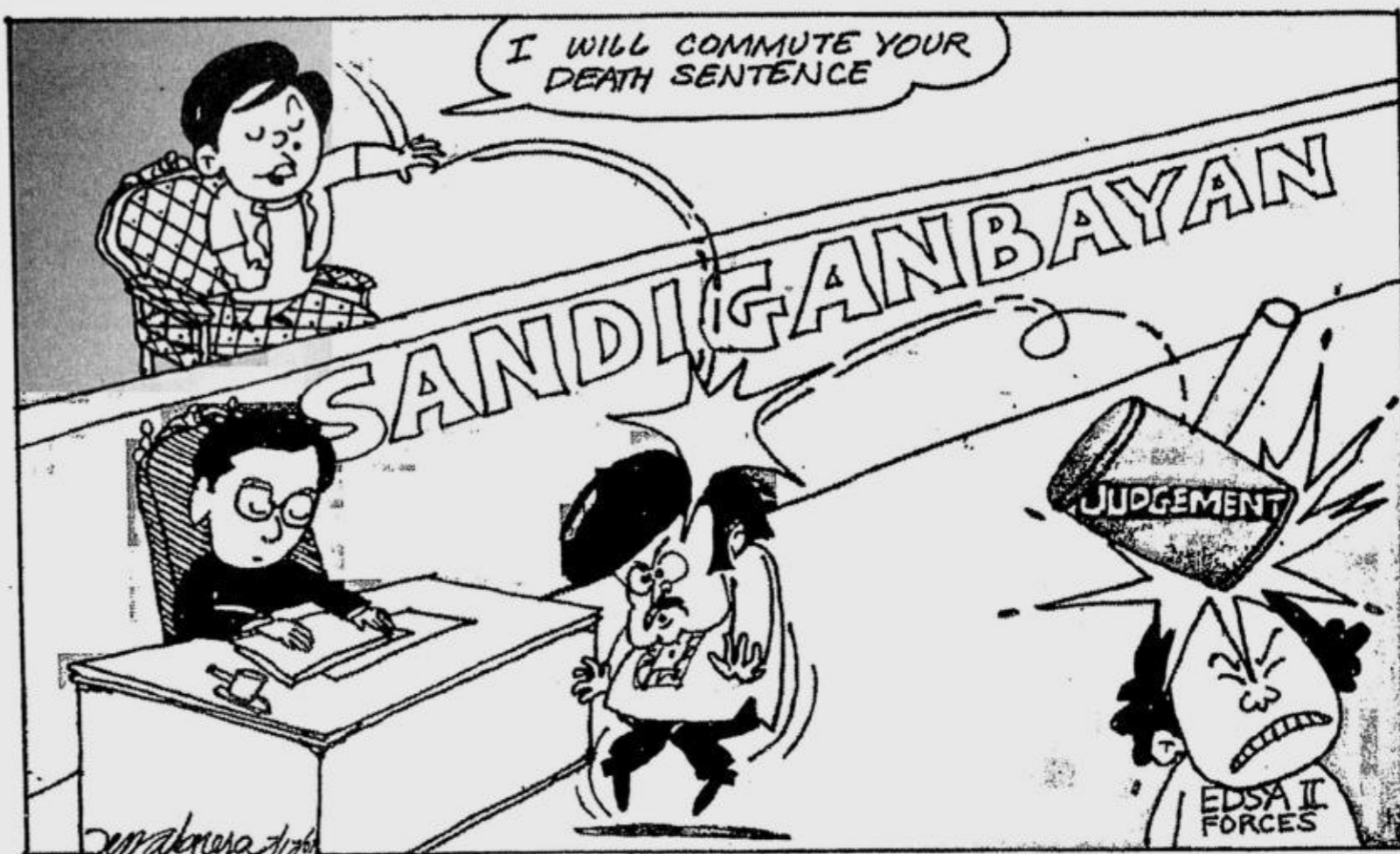
Other editors said the reporter-columnist had the responsibility to check and double-check every piece of information that she obtains and decides to use in her column. She could have discovered that the very item she wrote about had been denied had she visited the Art Bell sites whose addresses she herself wrote at the end of column item. A little checking could have saved her and the paper a lot of embarrassment and grief.

The publisher at last week's Editorial Assessment Meeting stressed that reporters, writers, columnists and even editors have to be wary of items posted on the Internet. The information highway is littered with a lot of trash, junk mail, rumors, hoaxes and scams. Nothing can be taken at face value but has to be checked and rechecked. The publisher said that the new communication media have made the delivery of information faster, but it does not mean that all the information they are delivering is correct, accurate and true.

Perhaps, in mitigation of our error, we may point out that other, world-class publications like the New York Times and Washington Post have fallen for hoaxes and scams on the Internet. We're not the first—and certainly we won't be the last—to fall for these hoaxes, rumors and other bogus information offered on the Internet. But we're adopting safeguards to make sure that we don't fall again for such scams.

All journalists, whether reporters, staff writers, columnists or editors have that constant, universal obligation: to make sure that everything that they write about and publish is accurate and true. Joseph Pulitzer, a giant of American journalism, expressed it well when he said that a journalist must always remember three words, and these are: "Accuracy, accuracy, accuracy."

Through this editorial we reiterate our apologies to Art Bell and to our readers for the column item that turned out to be a hoax on the Internet. We have learned a painful lesson, and we hope that the new rules governing information obtained over the new media will help us avoid a repetition of a similar error.



Stop the cement and oil cartels

THE CEMENT cartel is waging a propaganda campaign in media to stop the importation of cement or at least put up steep and stiff tariff barriers to protect the local cement industry against foreign exporters. The cartel cries that foreign suppliers like Taiwan, Indonesia and Japan are "dumping" their cement here and underpricing local cement. The Philippine government must protect the local cement companies, it cries with much flag-waving.

Look who's talking? The local cement cartel is dumping its own cement in other countries like the United States and other developed countries. It exports its own cement at below production cost and then gets the losses back from Filipino buyers. And it started the dumping war by exporting cement to Taiwan at the equivalent of P34 per 50-kilo bag. But it sold the same cement in the Philippines for P120 per bag, ex-plant.

The local cartel was trying to take over or close down Taiwanese cement plants, as it did so successfully in the Philippines. But the Taiwanese fought back and gave the cartel a dose of its own medicine. It exported its cement to the Philippines at less than P100 per bag, still way above the P34 per bag quoted by the local cartel when it dumped its own cement in Taiwan. But the local cement companies, who were selling their products at P120 a bag, cried uncle and ran screaming for help to the government. It is still screaming in the media.

The Philippine government, the cartel said, should protect Philippine cement companies. Look who's talking again? Except for Danding Cojuangco's Northern Cement, all the local cement companies are foreign-owned. They took over the Filipino cement companies by doing to them what I just described above. We are in the grip of giant cement companies from Europe and the United States that have formed themselves into a cartel to dominate the Philippine cement industry and manipulate prices.

They did it by first buying Apo Cement Corp. Then they drastically dropped the price of Apo cement so that the other cement companies were unable to sell their own cement and started los-

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



ing money. Then they offered to buy these struggling cement companies whose owners, rather than lose money, sold out. All except Cojuangco. Once they controlled the Philippine cement industry, they raised prices here. Cojuangco, alas, followed the high prices of the foreign-owned cement cartel.

But because of the slump in construction due to the worldwide economic crisis, there is a glut in the supply of cement. Cement cannot be stored for long periods because it hardens in a short time. So it must be sold as quickly as possible. To do that, cement companies are exporting their cement cheap but selling them at high prices in their own countries. The local cement cartel is selling cement very cheap in rich countries like the United States, but pricing it very high in very poor countries like the Philippines which can least afford it. The raw material for the cement comes from the Philippines, it is processed here, but the finished product is more expensive here than in countries which import that very same cement.

If there is an oversupply, why is cement very expensive in the Philippines? What happened to the law of supply and demand? The supply here is still controlled by the local cartel. Imported cement is less than 20 percent of the market—and already the cartel is crying to high heavens against the cheaper imported cement. But even though the landed cost of imported cement is only P100 per bag, the consumers don't benefit at all. It is the importers who make a killing. They sell it at about P120 per bag, underselling the local cement by P2 to P5 per bag, but still making a hefty profit.

The cartel cries that if the imports are not stopped, local cement companies may close down

and throw thousands of workers out of jobs. They will not let that happen. The foreign owners have too much at stake in the cement companies here. And all they have to do is stop dumping their products abroad.

And even if they do close down, many more workers would be employed in the construction industry which would expand if construction materials are inexpensive.

Cement is one of the primary materials in construction. And construction has a multiplier effect on other industries such as steel, lumber, plumbing and electrical supplies, tiles, roofing, paint, etc. What's more, it is labor intensive. Many jobs would be created by a construction boom. Besides agriculture, the government should boost the construction industry because of its multiplier effect by letting in cheap cement and cheap steel from Russia temporarily. During the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt perked up the US economy by encouraging construction through cheap and easy housing loans (no more than 8 percent interest a year). It worked; the American economy improved. There's no reason why it wouldn't work now.

When constructing a factory becomes inexpensive, naturally investors will locate their factories here, thus creating jobs for Filipinos.

Costly cement, which the cement cartel is trying to foist on us, not only has depressed the local construction industry, it has also made government infrastructure projects more expensive. It has made homes for the poor also unaffordable. Low-cost housing for the poor is now high-cost housing. And what will that do to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's poverty alleviation program?

Filipino officials should not be taken in by the propaganda campaign of the foreign-owned cement cartel. Don't fall for its wails of sorrow. That would be a stupid thing to do. For the cartel is pulling our collective leg. Worse, it is fooling us and exploiting us.

Stop the cement cartel now as the Constitution mandates the state to do.

The oil cartel will be discussed in tomorrow's column.

Vultures

I've heard several cases of this, but this one puts it succinctly and reasonably. The account comes from Bien A. Calleja; I've decided to put out his letter in full. It speaks for itself.

I am writing you on the chance that you might be interested to help bring to the attention of our lawmakers the urgent need to pass a law that will protect the interests of the very poor from unscrupulous funeral parlors which act like vultures preying on families of accident victims and medico-legal cases, many of whom belong to society's poorest, literally soaking them dry with their atrocious and unreasonable charges. These vultures are in connivance with the police who get a fat commission from them for every medico-legal case given the funeral parlors.

I became a victim of this racket only recently when our household helper, Cheryllyn Balberona, a hardworking 24-year-old girl from Carcar, Cebu, met a fatal accident. She was electrocuted. Her case being a medico-legal one, we called the police to investigate and to conduct an autopsy so that her indigent parents could be properly informed of the circumstances surrounding her untimely death. The police investigator from the Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) in Camp Crame arrived at the accident scene nearly two hours after we made a request for an investigator. Apparently, the police investigator waited for the funeral parlor representative to pick him up because he arrived at the accident scene in an L-300 van of Prudential Funeral Parlor accompanied by its sales representative.

The body of our household helper was loaded on the van after pictures had been taken and an investigation had been made by the police. It was then that the sales representative of the Prudential Funeral Parlor approached me, gave me his card, and told me to send to him the relatives of the victim as soon as they arrived from the province so that the terms of the service could be discussed and formalized. The police investigator and the parlor representative then boarded the L-300 van and together left the scene.

Since all these transpired at about 2 a.m., it was only the next day that I was able to send my

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



son to the funeral parlor to make the necessary arrangements.

It was also then that we got the shock of our lives from the funeral parlor representative. The cheapest funeral service available for our dead household helper, according to the sales representative, was P24,500. We were told to pay this amount. Otherwise, he said, the death certificate would not be made available to us and we would not be able to bury her remains or retrieve the body from the parlor. In effect, the body was held hostage by the funeral parlor and the ransom demanded was P24,500. While the Abu Sayyaf holds live hostages for ransom, this vulture of a funeral parlor holds dead hostages for ransom. I don't know which is worse.

I personally canvassed the prices of other funeral parlors and these ranged from a low of P5,000 to a high of P8,000—a big difference from Prudential's incredible charge of P24,500 for funeral services to be given to an indigent domestic helper.

I was told by another funeral parlor that the reason for the exorbitant charge of Prudential is that commissions would have to be paid to the police, to the medico-legal officer who performed the autopsy, to the sales representative, etc. I don't understand why the police and the medico-legal officer have to be paid commissions for performing their assigned tasks and for which they are already being paid by the government. Doesn't the PNP have a budget for resolving medico-legal cases?

At first I thought my experience with this vulture of a funeral parlor was just an isolated case. But today, I learned from our house painter that when his cousin, a daily wage earner who was

living with him, died in his sleep, the police considered it a medico-legal case and brought in their favorite funeral parlor. And as in the case of our household helper, the funeral parlor demanded P27,000 for its services.

The relatives of the dead appealed to Quezon City Hall for assistance and the funeral parlor agreed to lower the charges to a mere P4,000 after City Hall intervened.

In my case, a Quezon City councilor friend of mine threatened to invite the general manager and the sales representative of the funeral parlor to a Quezon City council blue-ribbon committee hearing to get to the bottom of what appears to be a continuing racket of the funeral parlor victimizing the poor. Only then did the funeral parlor management agree to accept a fee of P3,000 for embalming and for allowing the body to be transferred to another funeral parlor charging only P5,000 for its services.

There is obviously an urgent need for a law that would do away with so-called "official NBI or PNP funeral parlors or morgues," a need for a law that would give families of accident and murder victims freedom to engage the services of their preferred funeral parlor.

The general perception of the public is that victims of foul play or accidents or other questionable deaths are automatically taken to official NBI or PNP morgues and funeral parlors for autopsies to be performed by NBI or police medico-legal officers. This is probably because the police and the NBI insist on taking victims to these so-called "official funeral parlors."

Please help bring to the attention of our lawmakers this urgent need to protect the interests of the poor from these unscrupulous people. These vultures not only feed on the dead, they also corrupt our law enforcers. They should not be allowed to exist, let alone to proliferate.

I understand from some Quezon City Hall personnel that the most notorious of these vultures is Prudential Funeral Parlor, the very same funeral parlor that the police investigator brought into the medico-legal case of our household helper.

Congress should be simpler, in keeping with the times

THE STATE of affairs in the Senate continue to defy definition less than a week before Congress opens. This columnist earlier wrote about President Macapagal's support for Sen. Franklin Drilon "though not in public," as well as Sen. Rene Cayetano's commitment to stick to the PPC process. The bloc of newcomers from the House, now the most courted bloc in the Senate, has been holding talks with the five-member Lakas bloc of Cayetano. The newcomers' idea apparently is to be able to merge into a formidable group of eight, in accordance with the formula of Vice President Tito Guingona, who is also Lakas president, that whoever gets the support of most of the 12 PPC members should have the votes of everyone in the coalition. With Senators Jun Magsaysay and Serge Osmeña, they stress that they have 10 votes; and with Drilon's and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel's votes, they will have a dozen. But those are likely to remain a dream.

Pundits note that while Ms Macapagal has endorsed Drilon, he has no following in the PPC and has, therefore, to form an alliance with his friends in the LDP and the old Erap camp for support. As for Pimentel, he, like Drilon, seems to have no following in the PPC, and his hopes of keeping his post hinges on a deadlock.

A recent report by GMA-7's ace "investigador" Mike Enriquez should be an eye-opener about how bad habits persist in the House of Representatives. Enriquez reported that the GMA reportorial team recently followed some trucks carrying rice supposedly meant for certain congressmen's constituents. The rice ended up in public markets instead. Apparently some P5 million worth of rice is allocated by the National Food Authority to each House member for distribution to their impoverished constituents, but as the GMA team found out, some of these are sold in the markets. One of the congressmen whose rice allegedly ended up in the market in Nueva Ecija, according to the Enriquez report, is an aspirant for the speakership who espouses "new politics."

This practice should be discontinued. Most of the rice doubtless end up as dole-outs to political leaders or are sold to recoup election expenses. If Pangasinan Rep. Joe de Venecia will be elected as Speaker, he ought to investigate this and put a stop to it.

Also, perhaps our Congress leaders could advise

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



their respective members to dress simply for the sessions, in keeping with the hard times. The members of Congress should do away with those expensive Paul Cabral barongs costing P25,000 to P30,000 each and popularized by deposed President Estrada, or those equally expensive imported suits and jewelry for the female members. Next Monday's opening of Congress should show a deliberate toning down in the usual opening session glitter, both for members and their wives, especially since the President's State of the Nation address will focus on measures to eliminate poverty within 10 years. It cannot be business as usual for Congress in the midst of so much poverty.

What ought to be done to help alleviate the plight of the poor who are badly hit by the hard economic times is to make rice available again at socialized prices. Speaking of the poor, an indication that they are really hard-hit these days is what sociologists have called "altanghap" (short for *almusal, tanghalian* and *hapunan*). As new National Artist for Literature Frankie Sionil Jose said in a recent lecture, some of the poor have now been reduced to one meal a day: "altanghap." Sionil Jose warned of the grave consequences of ignoring the plight of the poor.

The poor are great patrons of the popular packaged noodles that sell for less than P4 a pack, which they mix with rice to feed the whole family. At Nanay Zafra's 100th birthday celebration last Sunday, business executive Gus de Leon told this columnist that the market for this cheap noodle pack has slumped by 70 percent. Hearing this, UP parish priest Fr. Robert Reyes asked, "Ano pa ang kinakain ng mahihirap?"

Times are hard, and perhaps those of us who can afford to help the truly needy can be more generous. One way some friends have thought of is to give bigger tips to workers in the services sector: your supermarket bag boy, gasoline attendant,

manicurista and the kariton-pushing fruit vendor as well as the domestic staff.

It's heartening to note that despite the hard times, cultural activities continue almost without let-up. How the organizers do it is beyond me. The other weekend, my husband and I were delighted to attend the "Panagutanan" concert which was held as a tribute to the father of religious music in this country, Fr. Ed Hontiveros, S.J. Aside from the rendition of Father Hontiveros' famous compositions by well-known singers Noel Cabangon and Carol Banawa, whose voices were so admirably suited to what they sang, there were the interpretations of his music by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Lea Salonga's brother, Gerard Salonga, and a 100-member choir. The show was very professionally produced. Kudos to the Jesuit Music Ministry.

Blending 100 voices is difficult enough, but it becomes even more impressive when one realizes that the choir is really a composite of about eight different choirs. These choirs are made up of mostly young people, and operate mostly in the Marikina and Katipunan area of Quezon City area near the Ateneo, namely, Hangad, the Barangka Choir, Marytown Choir, Rabbini Junior Choir, Keynotes Chorale and Tinig Barangka.

Last Saturday evening, we stole away from the Bastille Day reception at the French Embassy to catch up with the concert of the newly organized Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO), the first community orchestra in the country, at the Equitable-PCIB's Francisco Santiago Hall. This was upon the invitation of Tessie Serrano, head of Miriam College's music department.

As Tessie pointed out, the 50-member MMCO is composed of young, talented and promising musicians, many of whom are winners of the National Music Competition for Young Artists. What's beautiful about this community-based orchestra is that it harnesses young musicians in the metropolis so that they can bring orchestral music to schools, barangays and other community structures. That night, under the baton of Prof. Chino Toledo, MMCO tackled, among other works, the difficult "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin, with Nita Abrogao Quinto as pianist. The MMCO was absolutely professional. Efforts such as this should be supported and encouraged.

'Final Fantasy': An old fogey's take

WHEN do you know you've crossed inexorably into the world of the old fogey?

Intimations of that moment came to me the other night when the family watched a movie called "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within." Hyped as the first "HyperReal computer-generated feature film," the movie struck me as an over-long anime, with impressive images and effects, true, but slow-paced and rather tedious to watch.

The kids, though, were another story altogether. I knew we were on another plane when they started oohing and aaahing over an extreme close-up of Dr. Aki Ross' eye. "It's looks so real!" gushed the 15-year-old. At the end of the movie, as we made our way to the car, she and her older brother couldn't get over how "realistic" the human characters were. "I liked the eyes and the hair best," said my daughter. "Especially how Aki's hair was so smooth and shiny." "I like the people's skin," said my son, "you could even see the pores."

Silently, because I didn't want to give my "old fogey-ness" away, I wondered how long any sane moviegoer should have to wait for a character to show some emotion or expression. When I pointed out that despite all the technical wizardry, the filmmakers still couldn't get Aki to produce tears, the two youngsters protested: "Do you know how hard that would have been?" They did sheepishly admit, though, that the filmmakers forgot to give Aki Ross rumpled hair when she awoke from a disturbing dream. Unless in the future human beings will no longer toss and turn in their sleep.

FOR those who haven't seen the movie, "Final Fantasy" is a film that contains, as its website boasts, "no real locations, people, vehicles or props." Director Hironobu Sakaguchi worked with 200 artists and technicians from over 20 different countries to produce a film "crafted entirely from the imagination of artists."

In the past, you may have seen movies, like "Toy Story" or "A Bug's Life" or "Antz," that were made entirely on computers, a generational leap from the "traditional" animated films that began life as hand-drawn cells.

"Final Fantasy" takes computer-generated, digi-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



tal films one step further. Instead of transporting viewers into an "imaginary" world, it strives to reimagine the world, presenting a "hyper-real" reality that is nonetheless imaginary, since it presumably unfolds in the far future.

The "reality" in "hyper-reality" is really based on the "human" characters (I can't believe how many words I've just enclosed in quotation marks so far). Unlike, say, "Toy Story" where the main characters aren't expected to look anywhere near human, in "Final Fantasy" we are supposed to believe that Dr. Aki Ross, her love interest Captain Gray or all the other human characters are indeed human actors. Or at least very bad actors.

In a few instances, the filmmakers "get" it. Especially at the start, the verisimilitude is startling. But then, the wooden expressions get tiring after a while, even if the real human actors lending their voices to the characters try their damndest to bring Dr. Aki and company to life.

THERE were, so the website goes, "a lot of complications" involved in making the film, and there were times when the filmmakers and producers wondered if it wasn't "easier to shoot as live action."

To give the human characters "believable" movements, the filmmakers used motion capture or, in industry lingo, "mo cap." This involved dressing up staffers in tight black bodysuits studded with reflectors so that their movements could be captured digitally. The data, in the form of stick figures, then helped the artists create credible and fluid motions.

Unfortunately, it seems, facial expressions are harder to capture in digital form.

There's another strange twist to the saga of "Final

Fantasy." The movie is supposed to be based on a very popular videogame that "stars" Aki Ross. But when I asked my offspring if the movie's story and the game were linked in some way, they said there was no connection. What is the game like? "It's hard to explain, it's complicated, there are several layers." Well, does it involve defeating alien spirits? "Well, no." Oh, go figure.

AN OLD fogey like me would have said, "To hell with it, let's use live actors." But apparently, the point to making a movie like "Final Fantasy" is to prove that it can be done. Computers can "create" people? But people have been "creating" people since the era of silent movies. Whoever said people onscreen were "real" people? They were fantasies, as much the product of creative artists as props, sets and music.

But it seems to me an awful waste of money, not to mention energy and talent, to make a movie to prove that you can use a computer to create someone who walks, talks and moves like a real human being. And like so many live actors, acts badly, too. An impressive technical achievement, true. So what? Still boring to watch. But why are youngsters so taken with it? When did special effects ever replace story and character, conflict and resolution?

I have a feeling we have come to a crossroads about where filmmaking will go (let's not talk about local filmmaking, yet). "Tomb Raider" was based on a videogame but used live actors, though the movie ended up as flashy and insubstantial as the game. In "A.I.," Steven Spielberg transports moviegoers to the future and introduces us to a "robot" boy with a capacity to love. A young actor plays the robot, but to make him look "unhuman," his natural "blinks" were edited out digitally. And then there's "Final Fantasy," where digital magicians sought to create human-like non-humans.

I find comfort, though, in one unerring sign that human nature lives on. At my ISP's homepage, there's an ongoing poll that asks: "Who's the best cyber-babe? Lara Croft or Aki Ross?" So old-hat, so human.

What's with Malacañang?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



pendence of the commissioners should be respected. In other words, leave the commissioners alone. But rumors abound that the Palace has worn out the lines asking for support for Shahani. If MECO's chair is paid P1 million a month, the remuneration as board member must be almost as handsome, wouldn't you say? So why would FVR's sister want a P5,000 job to boot?

Shahani claims that as co-author of the bill creating the NCCA, together I believe with then Senators Angara, Alvarez and Roco, she is best qualified for the position despite her age and her well-paying position at MECO. Malacañang, on the other hand, avers that the artists are unhappy with Laya.

What artists? I've run into National Artists Arturo Luz and Frankie Jose, Bencab, Malang and Orlina lately and no one mentioned any deep dissatisfaction with Laya. Well, one lady did say that she signed a paper at the request of a friend but she didn't realize what she was signing.

Remember the relief we felt, brief as it was, at the news that the Macapagal administration would usher in a "new politics" and would be Joseph Estrada's opposite? Oh, wow. The unsavory memory of Estrada replacing the CCP chair and the ensuing mess is too fresh among the cultural workers not to elicit comparisons. Obviously, Malacañang's memory is awfully short. Estrada's supporters snicker and eye us with arched eyebrows, "So what else is new?"

Surely they're only referring to this latest gaffe on the part of the Palace. The President, sensible woman that she is, isn't about to collect four more

husbands and decide to dabble in the stock market and build gaudy houses. Hopefully, this latest contretemps is an aberration and she'll soon figure out that she has graver and more pressing problems than certain people's overweening ambitions.

But hark! That isn't the end of the story. In the meantime, Pablo Trillana, director of the National Historical Institute and an in-law of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, is eyeing Rio Almarino's job. Since the job of executive director of the NCCA pays something like P25,000 a month, one wonders what Trillana is up to. The scuttlebutt is that in the event the Palace cannot resolve the Shahani-Laya issue, Trillana will come in as the compromise candidate. Oh, my. This is the gentleman, by the way, whose photograph was in the papers handing the Manila mayor a heritage award, the same mayor who demolished the landmark building of the Jai Alai and is now bent on covering the Mehan Gardens with cement.

Now you see why I fear for this poor country? The situation is ridiculous. I mean, who cares about the chairmanship of the NCCA at this point? Leave it alone. We've got too many real problems that are crying for solutions.

I've been a member of this agency as far back as when it was still a presidential commission during the Aquino administration. Believe me, I told Ricky Jose, I feel like one of those monuments after all these years or, worse, a fixture. I do not have any desire to hang on although I have to admit it has its uses when you're trying to salvage what's left of our landmarks and buildings. But Malacañang officials should wake up—they're looking more and more like Joseph lately.

My apologies to Ambeth Ocampo. I have neither the desire nor the inclination to cause any intrigues. I may have misunderstood that the Manila City College was short of funds, which makes me wonder where the money to maintain and run it properly will come from since Manila's tax base has long moved elsewhere.

Three friends

A FORMER officemate calls me up every now and then to suggest that we see each other regularly so that we could keep our friendship burning. I hate to say this, but I don't agree. I believe that friendship, in the real sense of the word, should not be cultivated and developed in dark places reeking with alcohol and cigarette smoke. Rather, the bonds of friendship are strengthened over time through shared experiences.

I met Michelle and Roan (not their real names) when I was 16. I was then an overeager freshman at the Polytechnic University of the Philip-

YOUNGBLOOD

Elizabeth D. Andres

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

mates, comparing theirs with mine.

Since the tell-something-about-yourself stuff had to be done alphabetically, I was among the first five students in our class to be called to speak. Being our high school declaimer, I spoke in a manner that impressed the professor and intimidated my classmates.

As the introductions went on, two girls caught my attention. The first was Michelle, who with her slim built, evenly tanned skin and long fine hair, was not particularly pretty but had a welcoming warmth and grace I had never seen in any other girl before. She had what I would call a virginal smile and her soft, feminine voice reminded me of Mother Theresa.

The other was Roan, who looked like a Middle-Eastern beauty. Despite her near-perfect features, however, she was shy and her voice could hardly be heard.

I did not expect either of them to try to get to know me, so I took the initiative. And the moment we started talking, an instant friendship was born.

Different backgrounds

We found out later that we shared no traits in common. For instance, I love singing, Michelle can carry a tune, while Roan, I'm afraid, has to spend a whole millennium practicing before she can tell the difference between do and fa.

Being the class vice president, I was quite popular among my classmates. Michelle didn't care about extracurricular activities, but she usually brought home perfect scores to show to her mom. Roan, with her *que sera sera* attitude, hardly made her presence felt in class.

Our family backgrounds probably accounted for the sharp differences in our characters. I grew up in a family where father was always right but mother was opinionated. Michelle was the eldest daughter of young entrepreneurs. Roan was the youngest in a brood of six. Her father died when she was 11, and her sister was the sole breadwinner, working as a singer in Japan.

For our class activities we always made sure that we would be in the same group. During our vacant periods we would do assignments and research together. Sometimes when our meager allowances were almost wiped out by unexpected expenses like contributions, we would skip our meals or settle for *kaninbaw* (*kanin na may sabaw*).

Our life together was fun and colorful. Roan acted as the laughing watchdog when I bullied girls that I dismissed as brainless beauties. I served as the faithful sidekick when she insulted guys whom she found uninteresting. There were nights when we would throw stones at young sweethearts hiding and kissing in the dark corners. Through all these, Michelle would simply flash her shy smile and shake her head in amusement.

Some time in the middle of the school year, things began to change. I got involved in a student-based political organization and I had to cut classes several times so that I could be with my comrades in Mendiola. Later in the afternoon, I would find Michelle and Roan in our favorite meeting place, waiting for me. I would then explain to them the effects of the expanded value-added tax on the economy or why the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades should not be ratified or why the masses should go the countryside and take part in an armed struggle against the government.

Out of touch

I did not enroll in the school year that followed and I was away for 11 months. When I finally returned to school, I learned that Roan had dropped all her subjects and left no clue as to her whereabouts. Michelle was already in her third practicum (our course requires four) and I was suffering the inconveniences of a returning, irregular student.

I knew it was time for me to make another start. I was lucky to be accepted as the features editor of our college-based publication. But by the time I became editor in chief, Michelle had graduated and Roan was still nowhere to be found.

Shocks

For two years, Roan, Michelle and I had no contact with each other. Then one day, I found myself walking on the narrow streets of some godforsaken place. Very soon I was talking to Roan's family. I was almost floored when I was told that she had gone to Japan to work as a dancer, but she was expected to come home soon for a vacation.

I was happy to see Roan again a few months later. She had become prettier and her hair was dyed gold.

For three days, we called everyone we knew to inquire where Michelle might be. I got another shock when I learned that she's working with the intelligence office of the Philippine National Police in Southern Luzon.

When we saw her again, she still radiated charm but minus the sweet innocence that she once had. She was slim but no longer looked fragile. Her once long, fine hair barely touched her collar.

It was one happy reunion—so happy that it was almost close to painful. No, we did not talk about Marxism-Leninism or Mao Zedong thought or the Code of Conduct of the Philippine National Police or the bright blinking lights of Tokyo. We only talked about the good times we had when we were younger and aggressive, and the good times ahead of us when we will be old and experienced.

That was two years ago. Roan is now back in Japan—she has to, for the responsibility of finding bread and butter for the family now rests on her shoulders. Michelle has to work to help her parents send her siblings to school. And here I am, hopping from one job to another searching for that elusive satisfaction while struggling to be a writer.

We now have our own lives to live, our own destinies to carve, and, oh God, we do not even know when we will see each other again. Maybe two years from now, maybe even 10 or maybe—just maybe—never again. But Michelle and Roan and all the things we did together will always remain in my memory.

Now I know what to tell my former officemate when he calls me up again.

Elizabeth D. Andres, 24, works as a member of the marketing staff of a sports club in Metro Manila.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



The pollution of our seas

THE WORLD'S largest cruise ship, the Sovereign of the Seas, used to routinely bypass pollution controls to dump oil waste in the waters until it was convicted a few years back and fined \$18 million. Court records showed that certain international cruise ships falsified records in what they call "fairy tale books."

After that lesson, Royal Caribbean, the ship's owner, became more conscious about environmental concerns. Bones, seafood shells, beer bottles are recycled on land. Shampoo and lotions are now packed in biodegradable cartons.

In the Philippines, I've never heard of a single ship operator being

hailed to court for polluting the sea. It is apparent that some government personnel are sleeping on the job because pollution is the rule, rather than the exception, among our ships, especially passenger ships. You can readily see this when ships and their passengers dump garbage, plastic and glass or leak oil, hydraulic fluids and other pollutants.

Our seas are so polluted that sometimes the Supercat, which travels from Cebu to Ormoc and vice versa, has to stop to extricate some plastic materials or garbage caught in its propellers. A day's travel along the San Juanico Strait, the most beautiful navigable strait in



the world, is enough to show how terribly polluted our seas are.

But, as usual, we Filipinos will not act on any violation of the law regardless of how flagrantly it is committed until it is too late.—**AURELIO D. MENZON, lawyer, Menzon Law Office, G/F Bayantel Building, Tacloban City**

Onerous Naia Terminal 3 contract

IN A RECENT column, Victor Agustin exposed the unjust provision of the build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract with the Philippine government for the construction and operation of Naia Terminal 3. This provision requires the government to shoulder the financial obligations of PIATCO to its foreign lenders should it default in payments.

This should not be the case since PIATCO's BOT contract was unsolicited. Therefore, the government must be freed from whatever liabilities PIATCO may incur with its lenders.

To add more facts to the article, the ACCRA law firm was hired by the MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (MIASCOR, MacroAsia, PAL, Cargohaus, Dnata and Philippine Skylanders), and not solely by MacroAsia to represent them with their problems regarding the onerous agreement.—**CHRISTOPHER C. LU, treasurer, MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators**

Overtime claimants not with House media office

THIS is with reference to a news item last July 12, 2001 in connection with overtime claims of certain employees of the Media Affairs and Public Information Service (Mapis).

Please allow me to set the following matters straight:

● Miguel Genovea is not, and never has been the head of the Mapis. The undersigned is the ser-

vice director of Mapis which is under the Public Relations and Information Service headed by House Deputy Secretary Victoria V. Loazon.

● Genovea was a consultant with the Office of the Speaker and the employees alluded to in the article, although categorized as Mapis staff, have not been reporting to this office. We thank the INQUIRER for the ar-

ticle which will help put a stop to this practice of unauthorized overtime pay by certain quarters—a practice not condoned by this office or this institution, particularly at a time of national austerity.—**CELINE MARIE F. BUENCAMINO, service director, Media Affairs and Public Information Service, House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City**

Columnist can have Benz

VIC Agustin has done it again. In the guise of writing a business column, he again tried to impose himself upon us by spewing his convoluted brand of reporting.

We are challenging Agustin to show even an iota of evidence to prove the malicious lies he is peddling against former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. If he can show even the smallest proof as to the veracity of the vicious falsehood he is trying to manufacture that the

senator is the owner of a brand new Mercedes Benz, we are willing to give him the car for free.

Furthermore, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso Y. Santiago Jr. has never said nor confirmed to anyone that they bought a new Mercedes Benz.

Agustin should try very hard to have even a little Christian and human heart so that he will refrain from hurting other people.—**FLOR L. OFILADA, Manila**

Few companies can afford to pay living wage

THIS is a reaction to the report (PDI, 7/12/01) quoting IBON Foundation as saying that most medium and large companies in our country can afford to give their employees a living wage of P 510.84 daily despite claims to the contrary by the business sector. The report also said that only 10.6 percent of the production cost is allocated for wages, tending to lead one to believe that there is a big room for "adjustments."

This may be true for some of the medium and large companies. But for some others and especially for

the small companies, which comprise the majority, the situation is very different. In some companies labor costs make up as much as 35 percent of production costs. These firms just to "roll and survive" and there is no consideration of profits at this point.

I suggest that IBON Foundation run a manufacturing business of its own and so that it will see how business is kept alive and kicking.—**ARTURO A. BENEDICTO, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley**

Chinoy subversives

I NEVER met Lawrence Dy Ong; in fact, I never even heard about him until about three weeks ago, when his friends circulated an appeal, through e-mail, to raise funds for his medical expenses. Lawrence, a social activist, was dying of liver cancer.

Lawrence was vice president for development of Kaisa, a foundation that seeks to build bridges between local ethnic Chinese, or Chinoy (Chinese Pinoy), and the larger Filipino community. It seemed natural that Lawrence would end up working with Kaisa since his whole life has involved "bridge-building." Right after graduation from college, he joined the Jesuit Volunteers and worked with many disadvantaged groups, including juvenile delinquents, Vietnam refugees, Aeta families and rebel returnees.

Lawrence organized Kana-wan Aeta communities for alternative sources of livelihood, helping them to get government permission to tap unused public land to raise peanuts and other cash crops. He also worked with rebel returnees in Bataan who had been forsaken by the government, linking them to experts from the University of the Philippines for agricultural activities, including the establishment of a mango orchard.

Lawrence was also a street parliamentarian, taking to the streets in the anti-chacha (charter change) rallies during Ramos' time and in the other mobilizations against Estrada.

As vice president for development in Kaisa, Lawrence supervised the construction of the Kaisa Heritage Center from 1998 to 1999 and it was through his persistence that the center was finished on time, a rare feat for any construction job. The center houses a museum and research center on the Filipino-Chinese community.

We've all met people like Lawrence, but I think it's important to highlight that Lawrence was doing all this as a Chinoy, defying traditions and stereotypes. Many people still think of the Chinoy as busi-

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



ness people who don't think of anything else except making money. The Estrada administration further fuelled anti-Chinese sentiments because of the problem of Chinoy cronies.

Lawrence called himself a Chinoy subversive, and he was in fact carrying on a long tradition of other Chinoy and Chinay who chose to work for social change. They were there, supporting struggles against the colonial rulers—Spaniards, Americans, Japanese—as well as against local despots and incompetent leaders such as Marcos and Estrada.

More often than not, this involvement was a quiet one. The irony was that while many Tsinoys and Tsinoys had a great love for the Philippines, they knew, too, that as non-Filipinos, their involvement in political activities made them much more vulnerable to reprisals. The risks were great, punishments often much harsher than what non-Chinese would be subjected to. The Chinese cemetery in Manila has a memorial to ethnic Chinese who were executed by the Japanese during World War II. Under Marcos, there was the case of the Yuyitung brothers, journalists who spoke out on social issues and were deported to Taiwan, where they served long prison sentences as alleged communists.

Chinoy and Chinay "subversives" learned to work quietly, not just because of their fear of adverse consequences but because of a very simple ethos: Do what needs to be done, without expectation of rewards or awards.

About three years ago when I wrote about the Western Visayas State University's medical school and how they had produced graduates who went back to their home villages to serve, one Chinoy doctor at the Chinese General Hospital took the initiative of contacting the college to offer an annual scholarship. He has sent money each year,

anonymously, expecting nothing in return. I didn't know about this until recently when the medical school dean told me about this generous donor. When I mentioned this scholarship to other Chinoy, several offered to donate their own scholarships as well, again without fanfare, without publicity.

There are many others who have done their share, through community service, scholarships and donations, marching in the parliament of the streets, or simply staying on in the Philippines and keeping their investments here. No, the Chinoy and Chinays have not had to do this with press releases. At the anti-Erap rallies they were there as Filipinos, shoulder to shoulder with everyone else, working like Lawrence did among the Aeta, the rebel returnees, the Vietnamese refugees.

Lawrence died last Friday at the age of 44 but even before he died, he asked that people carry on his work. The meager savings he had, he bequeathed to a Sagip-Hirap Trust Fund, to be used to support more volunteers to work with non-government organizations and people's organizations. Volunteers work for free but it still helps to have funds to cover modest stipends and allowances as well as their health insurance and assistance for emergencies. There will be a board of trustees to administer the funds, coming from Lawrence's family, Kaisa, Xavier School's Class of 1974 and other groups.

Those interested in supporting this trust fund can call Kaisa at 526-6796, 526-6798 and 527-6083. You can also visit the Kaisa Heritage Center at Anda corner Cabildo Streets, Intramuros. Or e-mail them at kaisa@philonline.com.

There will be a memorial service for Lawrence tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. His funeral will be tomorrow, Wednesday, the cortege leaving Funeraria Paz at 9 a.m. to move on to the Chinese cemetery for the cremation.

Mabuhay ka, Lawrence!

Preventing midnight appointments

MAY I refer to the letter of Bertrand Hamamale (PDI, 6/18/01), titled "Ban on midnight appointments needed."

In anticipation of possible dilemmas the recent elections might bring relative to appointments and other personnel actions in the civil service, the Civil Service Commission issued as early as February this year CSC Resolution No. 010487 prohibiting personnel movements in any government entity from March 30 to May 14. The resolution specifically prohibits the issuance of appointments before or during the election ban which are made effective during the ban or immediately thereafter.

The matter was reiterated further through a more recent resolution issued last June 4 (CSC Resolution No. 010988). The resolution addresses the practice of some appointing authorities, particularly local government executives, of issuing mass appointments to secure places for their proteges before they finish their terms. The same directive provides for the disapproval of appointments issued in bulk after the elections and based only on political considerations. Only those appointments issued due to apparent need and which have undergone regular screening process conducted by the Personnel Selection Board before the prohibited period as provided for under the election law and rules will be allowed.—**KARINA CONSTANTINO-DAVID, chair, Civil Service Commission, Constitution Hills, Batasang Pambansa Complex, Diliman, QC**

Globelines

vital

cost-effectiveness

NDD - P3.00/min
(to ALL landline phones)

Hotlist - P3.00/min
(to 5 enrolled Globe Handphone numbers until December 31, 2001)

IDD - \$0.40/min
(anytime, anywhere)

efficiency

Call Waiting ID

3-Way Calling
(allows 3 parties to talk at the same time)

Call Forwarding
(diverts a call to an assigned number)

Voice Mail
(records/repeats caller's message)

Hotline
(instantly connects to a pre-designated number upon lifting the handset)

responsibility

responsibility

... (text is too blurry to transcribe accurately) ...

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Kashmir row sours summit

AGRA, India—The leaders of India and Pakistan girded themselves for another round of summit talks yesterday, but the mood was soured by overnight arguments over their decades-old Kashmir dispute.

Pakistani officials said the foreign ministers of both sides would meet at 10 a.m. to thrash out differences over a planned joint declaration, after which Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf would hold a third round of one-on-one talks.

"Intense discussions on the joint declaration continued late into the night between the

officials on both sides," Pakistani government spokesperson Anwar Mahmood said.

"There are differences of opinion," he said, adding that the Pakistan side wanted to include provisions they felt would set a course for future dialogue.

Vajpayee and Musharraf held two lengthy sessions on Sunday that had been given a positive spin by both sides, with the Indian premier also accepting an invitation to visit Pakistan later in the year.

However, the Pakistani delegation issued an official statement overnight, rebutting comments by Indian officials that other issues apart from Kashmir had been substantially discussed at the talks.

"President Pervez Musharraf made it plain to his host that no progress could be made toward normalization of relations between the two countries unless the issue of Kashmir was resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir," the statement said.

On issues pushed by New Delhi, such as terrorism, nuclear safeguards and trade, the statement said they had only been raised by Vajpayee during his opening remarks at delegation-level talks.

"Musharraf had responded that Pakistan was willing to discuss those issues as well, but no other could be addressed unless the core issue was discussed and resolved," it said.

"Progress on Kashmir had to be in tandem with progress on other issues."

India and Pakistan have fought three full-scale wars since the partition of the sub-continent in 1947—two of them over Kashmir, which is divided between the two countries and claimed by both.

Prior to the summit, Pakistan had repeatedly insisted that Kashmir was the "core issue," while India wanted a "composite dialogue" with Kashmir and other areas of bilateral concern given equal priority.

In Indian Kashmir itself, police yesterday reported 13 fresh killings in separatist-linked violence, taking the death toll to 190 in the past 12 days. **AFP**

Russia, China to cement ties with treaty

MOSCOW—Bound by common concerns about US missile defense plans, Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Jiang Zemin sat down for talks yesterday to mold their partnership into a paramount friendship treaty.

The treaty is the first such document since 1950, when Joseph Stalin and Mao Tse-tung created a Soviet-Chinese alliance that later soured into bitter rivalry by the 1960s. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 Moscow and Beijing have put their disputes behind and forged what they call a "strategic partnership."

China is the biggest customer for Russia's struggling defense factories, rich in expertise and advanced weapon designs but short on orders from Russia's own impoverished military. Together, the two countries oppose US plans for a national missile defense and alleged US attempts to dominate world affairs.

Jiang arrived Sunday for a four-day visit on the heels of the International Olympic Committee decision at its Moscow meeting to award the 2008 Olympics to Beijing, and met with outgoing IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

"We saw the jubilation of Beijing residents on television and we rejoiced together with you," Putin told Jiang in the Kremlin before proceeding to the "many important questions" he said were on the agenda.

Jiang's visit also follows the successful test Saturday of a missile interceptor by the United States—a step forward in its quest to build a national missile defense system.

Both Russia and China warn that the proposed American missile shield would upset the strategic balance and trigger a new global arms race. China's concerns are potentially even stronger, because its nuclear arsenal is tiny compared to Russia's and even a limited missile defense could erode its deterrent value. **AP**

Wahid foes threatens to hasten impeachment

JAKARTA—Indonesian political leaders yesterday agreed to immediately convene an impeachment session of parliament if President Abdurrahman Wahid declares a state of emergency this week.

"A meeting of the leadership of the MPR (national assembly) and of the heads of the political factions agreed to immediately convene the special session if the president issues his decree on Friday," Sophan Sophian, head of the largest party bloc in parliament, said.

Wahid has said he will declare the state of emergency, which would allow him to dissolve parliament, if party leaders fail by 6 p.m. Friday to reach a compromise deal to avert the impeachment session.

"If the decree is issued on Friday, the MPR will immediately hold a plenary and on the very same day convene the special session," said Sophian, from Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle.

Sophian's comment came after MPR chair Amien Rais last week warned that if Wahid went ahead with the emergency decree, the MPR would advance the planned special impeachment session sched-

uled to start on Aug. 1.

The session is to demand Wahid account for his erratic rule. A rejection of his account by the MPR would mean an end to Wahid as the country's first freely elected president.

Sophian said that in a bid to enable the 700-member MPR to immediately convene a plenary, its members had been asked to gather at the parliament when Wahid's deadline falls on Friday.

The MPR comprises 200 representatives from the regions and from selected non-political organizations and the 500-member lower house of parliament, the DPR.

Fahmi Idris—head of the second largest political faction at the parliament, the Golkar Party—was quoted by the Satunet website as saying that he believed, with the early warning, there would be enough MPR members in town at the time of the deadline to meet a quorum for a plenary.

A plenary needs at least two-thirds of MPR members present.

Enough MPR members could be gathered within four hours, he said. "I think it should be sufficient to convene a plenary session," Idris said. **AFP**



SUMMIT SITE

An Italian navy ship passes July 15 the European Vision (right) in Genoa, where the G8 summit will be held. Italy has hired the luxury liner to accommodate all the leaders apart from US President Bush, so they can be kept in tight guard in one spot when they rest, and far away from any street battles. **REUTERS**

Mahathir on 20 years in power: No regrets

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad celebrated 20 years in power yesterday, assured of a legacy as the great modernizer of his country while struggling against a drooping economy and reform-minded opponents demanding more democracy.

The 75-year-old leader acknowledged that he has made mistakes

that cost him politically, but said he had no regrets.

"I think I may have made some mistakes, yes, but I cannot regret the decisions that I have made, although they may be very unpopular and may have caused me to lose support," Mahathir told reporters.

"But I believe I made these things for the good of the country,

not for my own good, because I'm going, anyway," Mahathir said. "I can't stay forever."

Asia's longest-serving leader refused to say when he might retire, joking that the stock market could tumble.

Mahathir came to power July 16, 1981, and transformed his Southeast Asian country from a backwa-

ter dependent on tin, rubber and palm oil into a high-tech center of electronics exports and one of the wealthiest countries in the region.

Along the way, he consolidated more power into his own hands and has been criticized for arresting his opponents, weakening the judiciary and curbing the news media. **AP**

It's all in here.

foundation

Publisher Graham critical after fall

WASHINGTON—Katharine Graham, chair of The Washington Post Company and 1998 Pulitzer Prize winner, was in critical condition after undergoing surgery following a fall, a hospital spokesperson said yesterday.

Graham, 84, was attending a gathering of media executives in resort town of Sun Valley, Idaho, when she fell Saturday on a walkway outside a condominium, according to the Washington Post.

She was taken by helicopter to the St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in the state capital Boise, where she underwent surgery, said hospital spokesperson Amy Miller.

Graham was listed in critical condition early yesterday in an intensive care unit, Miller said, giving no further details.

The publisher, who enjoys considerable clout in the nation's capital, entertained most modern US presidents at her Georgetown home, including George W. Bush earlier this year.

Graham took over The Post Company after the death of her husband, Philip Graham, in 1963. She was chair of the board for 20 years—1973 to 1993—before ceding the position to her son Donald Graham.

The Post became one of the most influential newspapers in the country under her stewardship. **AFP**

Across the **NATION**

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Wage hike scares Mactan firmsBY IRENE SINO CRUZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Companies at the Mactan Export Zone (MEZ) have warned that they might move out of the country amid complaints of "unfriendly" government policies and declining productivity.

In a report submitted Friday to President Macapagal-Arroyo, presidential liaison officer for Central Visayas Elberto Emphasis said the MEZ companies preferred to relocate to China or Vietnam where labor policies are "stable and investor-friendly."

Emphasis urged the President to visit Cebu and meet with the business sector, saying her "presence will help tremendously in abbreviating this volatile business condition."

The zone has more than 100 companies, which account for over 60 percent of Cebu's total exports and jobs to 50,000 workers.

Emphasis met with at least 40 top executives of foreign-owned companies at the MEZ after he heard that several companies had planned to move out of the country.

The leading reason for the dissatisfaction at the zone, which was aired during the meeting, was the reported plan of Sen. Juan Flavier to file a bill increasing the daily minimum wage by P125.

"If there's a straw that (will break) the camel's back, this should be it," noted a top executive of an American firm.

The MEZ executives also cited the issuance of Department Order No. 3 by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas that prohibits labor contracting. In the past, the Department of Labor and Employment allowed labor contracting, through Department Order No. 10.

Foreign firms favor labor contracting because it enables them to hire workers based on demand for their

products.

"Without labor contracting, companies will have to (refuse) orders," the MEZ executives explained.

They also noted the declining productivity of its workers.

"Years ago, we (were) ahead of (the) curve. Now, we find the competition more and more difficult, especially from the company's assembly facilities in India and China," an executive said.

In his letter to the President, Emphasis noted that the foreign locators at the zone "have become skeptical of the government."

"During the initial stage of the dialogue, their depressed look was evident and their distrust toward government was noticeable," he said.

"Despite the effort I made (during the meeting), they have become skeptical of (the) government and they requested to have a dialogue with you," his letter to the President added.

The MEZ executives also expressed frustration and confusion over the mixed signals they had been getting from the government.

"Do you want us to stay or do you want us to go?" one executive asked.

Another said they have a hard time dealing with the government because "it's been talk for months now, but no action," referring to their complaints over government's "unfriendly" policies.

Still another said they would prefer to talk directly to somebody responsible. "Please convey the message, we want to go and talk to central government people rather than just send letters," he told Emphasis.

One company executive revealed that most Japanese companies based in the MEZ had been visiting China and Vietnam to look at the possibility of putting up new facilities or relocating there if things get more difficult in the Philippines.

The mother company of a Japanese electronics firm has even decided to move the production of some of its lines from Mactan to China, one of the firm's executives revealed.

"We have a big problem. As of this moment, our head office has decided to move some of our production to China," admitted a company executive in Niponggo.

If the Philippines does not take the necessary steps to upgrade its labor and the productivity, another executive warned, China will soon overtake the country.

Other concerns they raised during the meeting include the increase in overtime fees for customs personnel, increase in storage fees, and inadequate water and power supply at the zone.

Emphasis assured the executives that another meeting would be called to check on whether actions have been taken.

ROUNDUP**Typhoon aid sought**

ALCALA, Pangasinan—The parents of children who drowned when rampaging waters from the swollen Agno River swept away their houses at the height of Typhoon "Feria" here are appealing for financial aid. Three of the five fatalities were young siblings who were asleep when raging waters destroyed their shanty beside the Gualsic Dike in Barangay Caranglaan on July 4. The five were Kimberly Rodriguez, 6 months old; Ramil Ramirez, 7; and siblings Rodrigo Fronda, 10; Isabel, 5; and Rommel, 2. **Yolanda Fuentes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

NPA suspect slain

CABANATUAN CITY—A suspected New People's Army leader was killed after a gunfight with Army soldiers in Rizal, Nueva Ecija on Saturday. Maj. Roderick Parayno, public information officer of the Army's 7th infantry division, identified the fatality only as Ka Abbed. The battle erupted after Army soldiers chanced upon a suspected NPA camp in Barangay General Luna in Rizal. **Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Death for rapist










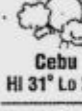
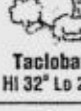
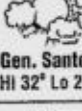
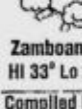
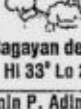
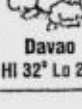
BACOLOD CITY—A former mine worker was sentenced to death Friday for raping a 12-year-old girl in 1997. Rolly Lumiran Montesa was found guilty of two counts of rape by Kabankalan Regional Trial Court Judge Edgardo de los Santos. Montesa was also ordered to pay the victim P75,000 as civil indemnity and P50,000 in moral damages. De los Santos said the abuse was attended by "aggravating circumstances that required the death penalty" because "the victim was even infected with gonorrhea as a result of the rape." **Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau**

Journalist dies

CEBU CITY—Veteran Cebu journalist Abraham Licayan, 75, drowned Saturday night while swimming in the waters off his private resort in Sitio Tagasa, Barangay Poblacion in Tabogon, 90 kilometers north of here. The body of Licayan was found by his neighbors floating in the sea at about 7 p.m., according to The Freeman, the Cebu newspaper where Licayan was provincial page editor and columnist. Licayan was declared dead on arrival at the Juan Dosado General Hospital in Sogod town. The Freeman said. He is survived by his wife Aurora and children, Abraham Jr., Lilibeth, Judilyn and Jennifer. **PDI Visayas Bureau**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

 Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 24°	 Baguio HI 23° Lo 16°	 Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 22°
 Laoag HI 32° Lo 24°	 Clark Zone HI 32° Lo 23°	 Tagaytay HI 32° Lo 25°
 Legazpi HI 31° Lo 25°	 Bacolod HI 32° Lo 25°	 Roxas HI 31° Lo 25°
 Cebu HI 31° Lo 25°	 Tacloban HI 32° Lo 25°	 Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 24°
 Zamboanga HI 33° Lo 24°	 Cagayan de Oro HI 33° Lo 24°	 Davao HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina

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Gov presses bounty on kidnappers

COTABATO CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol has launched a campaign to raise funds to reward those who can give information on the whereabouts of a Chinese engineer and his kidnappers.

Following the seizure of Zhang Zhong Quiang, the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade has limited the movement of Chinese workers in the P3.7-billion Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation dam in Carmen, North Cotabato.

Piñol said the Chinese construction firm, the military and local officials had agreed that no Chinese worker would leave the project site without properly coordinating with the Army and police "for their own security."

"This is to send the message that kidnappers could not do their business here and get away with it," Piñol said of the bounty.

The bounty system is working against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Western Mindanao, the governor said.

Taking a cue from Mel Gibson's movie "The Ransom," Piñol said the kidnappers would surely fight, probably kill, each other for the reward that would eventually lead to Zhang's release.

Zhang's abductors are demanding \$4 million from his firm, China Import-Export Technologies Inc., through the intervention of the Libyan

Embassy.

"I don't care who they are and what their demands are. We maintain a no-ransom policy," Piñol told Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp.

"We don't want Cotabato province to be a haven for kidnappers."

Abu Hamsha, the leader of the gang holding Zhang, has threatened to behead the 43-year-old victim from southern China if the demands are not met.

Piñol said he was given assurance by the Chinese consul's office that it will not pay ransom.

In Davao City, Presidential Assistant for Regional Concerns-Southern Mindanao Jesus Dureza warned gov-

ernment officials who are helping facilitate the payment of ransom money.

"Anybody, whether he is a government or military or police official, who does his part in meddling with the kidnappers and the victims' relatives and now involved (in the) payment of ransom money, is considered a conspirator," Dureza said Sunday in his weekly-radio program over dxDC Radio Mindanao Network-Radyo Agong.

He said when the official is actively involved with this criminal act, it means he is promoting kidnapping in the country to make money. **Edwin Fernandez with a report from Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

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JAVIER MURDER

11 accused seek inhibition of judge

BY NESTOR BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The 15-year-old murder case of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier suffered another delay.

Yesterday's hearing was suspended after the accused asked Presiding Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12 to inhibit himself from the case for alleged bias against them.

Lawyer Avelino Javellana, one of the accused, also sought the suspension of the two-day hearing so he can file a written motion for inhibition on behalf of the 11 accused.

Castrojas told Javellana in open court that he has seven days to submit his motion. He gave the prosecution panel led by State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III five days from receipt of the motion to file their comment.

Javellana, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador and nine others are facing charges of murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder for the killing of Javier and the wounding of several others on Feb. 11, 1986.

Pacificador, a close ally of then President Ferdinand Marcos, was named as the alleged mastermind.

His co-accused are his son Rodolfo, Capt. John Paloy, Vicente, Vegafria, Eduardo Iran (Boy Muslim), Ramon Hortillano, Henry Salaver, Eleazar Idemne, Romeo Nagales, Rolando Bernardino, Jose Delumen, Arleen Limoso and others known only as Akay, Nonoy, Totong and Dolfo.

Limoso, Delumen and Nagales have turned state witnesses.

Leave grant

Javellana told the INQUIRER that Castrojas was unreasonably strict on the accused in granting them permission to leave the Antique Rehabilitation Center (ARC), where they are detained, for medical treatment.

He said the judge rejected his motion to leave the jail and see his doctor in Iloilo City for his heart ailment and asthma.

"It would be better if Judge (Sylvia) Jurao continued to handle the case because she had directly heard the testimonies of the witnesses," Javellana said.

Castrojas, who took over from Jurao on Jan. 3, denied the allegation. "I was unaware that they

(members of the defense panel) were thinking that I was biased against them in issuing these orders," he told the INQUIRER, adding that he acted "based on the rules of law."

He said he merely ordered that two guards be assigned to accompany the accused instead of the usual single guard whenever they were permitted to leave jail after receiving reports they were seen in parties.

"If my orders affected them adversely, why did they not file a motion for reconsideration or appeal?" Castrojas asked.

The accused, including Pacificador, frequently left the ARC at the Binirayan Hills here to seek medical treatment in Iloilo City and in Manila.

Medical check-up

Pacificador took advantage of at least two instances when he was granted leave of court for a medical check-up.

The first was on Feb. 28 when Pacificador filed his certificate of candidacy for governor at the Commission on Elections provincial office. Earlier that day, he held a press conference at Hamtic town.

On April 19, Pacificador held a campaign caravan. Castrojas granted him a leave of court from April 17 to 26 so he could have another medical check-up at the Philippine Heart Center in Manila.

Dacera said the prosecution panel would oppose Javellana's motion, saying it was another "delaying tactic" to avoid the cross-examination of Limoso.

Limoso had testified in March last year that Rodolfo Pacificador gave him money, which was allegedly intended for Iran, in Parañaque, Metro Manila, days after Javier was killed.

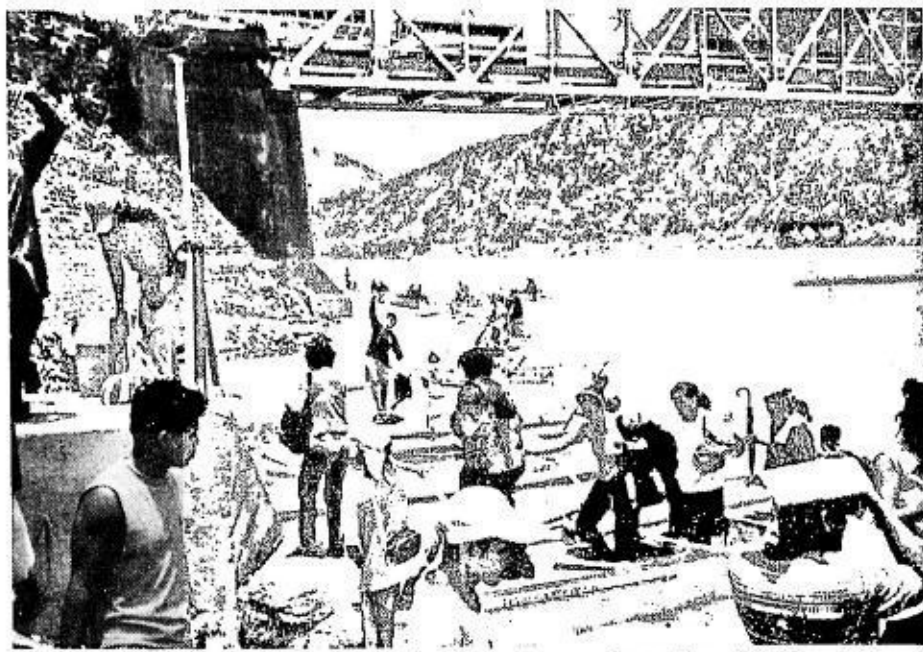
He had also told the court that Javellana gave a thumbs-up sign when he met with the suspects in Pacificador's house in Hamtic after the killing.

Rep. Exequiel Javier, Evelio's younger brother, said he did not see any reason for Castrojas to inhibit himself.

"The case will only drag on and we have been wanting justice for my brother and for the detainees for 15 years," Javier said.

Castrojas is the fourth judge to hear the case since the trial started in 1987. He replaced Jurao, who temporarily took over the case from Judge Antonio Natino in 1996.

The first judge, Bonifacio Sanz Maceda, was taken off the case by Javier's lawyers for allegedly being biased for Pacificador.



SMALL boats ferry commuters following the collapse of a portion of Quirino Bridge in Santa, Ilocos Sur.
LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Felled logs caused bridge collapse in Ilocos Sur

SANTA, Ilocos Sur—Lumber and swollen waters caused the collapse of the middle span of Quirino Bridge between Bantay and Santa towns at the height of Typhoon "Feria."

This was the assessment of Jaime Leones, chair of Banaoang Village here, who claimed to be the first to see the bridge without its middle span. The bridge's 75-meter center span was believed wiped out on the night of July 4.

"I saw the huge timber and the strong water currents," Leones said in Ilocano.

He said the logs, which villagers suspected to have come from upland Abra and other parts of Cordillera, could still be seen on the bridge's floor and base along the Abra River below.

Leones said cows, pigs and other farm animals were also swept away by floodwaters. Also seen were wild animals from the forests of the upland Cordillera, including a pregnant deer, which was entangled at the south end of the bridge.

Portions of the wiped-out bridge, he said, were seen about five kilometers downstream.

Dolores Benasa, 78, a resident of Banaoang, said the July 4 flood was the

biggest that ever hit the bridge.

"In my memory, this is already the biggest floodwater that passed through the bridge," Benasa said in Ilocano.

At the height of the typhoon, floodwaters were reported to have risen a meter above the floor of the bridge.

The last time water in the Abra River rose was in the 1960s and only reached a few inches below the bridge floor, Benasa said.

The Quirino Bridge was named in honor of Elpidio Quirino, the first Ilocano president and a native of Ilocos Sur.

The bridge, built in 1918, is a major link to the northern towns of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

The Americans bombed the bridge during World War II to prevent the pursuing Japanese forces. The two southern spans of the bridge were destroyed.

Restoration work was started in 1946 and completed during Quirino's term in 1948.

On Saturday, makeshift barges plying the Abra River started transporting light vehicles. An old road down the riverbank 500 meters below the bridge had been cleared. Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Revenge seen behind killing of Frenchman in Lapulapu

CEBU CITY—Police are hunting down the suspect in the killing of a Frenchman on July 14 inside his house in Lapulapu City.

SPO4 Geoffrey Baguio of the Lapulapu police homicide division said the suspect was one of the orphans in the center run by the victim, Raoul Louvel, 61.

Baguio, however, declined to identify the suspect as it might affect ongoing police operation.

But he said revenge was the likely motive as the suspect was kicked out by the victim from the Tierra Sans Frontier Children's Center in Barangay Pajac.

He said Louvel had found that the suspect was cutting classes and sniffing rugby.

The suspect was allegedly seen in Louvel's house in Carnation Square, Camella Homes Subdivision in Barangay Bangkal, Lapulapu on Friday and Saturday to ask the foreigner to allow him to return to the orphanage.

Louvel was found dead inside his room at about 11 p.m. on Saturday. The victim, who suffered five stab wounds in the chest, was naked. But police said he was known to sleep without any clothes whenever he was at home.

Police recovered a pair of bloodied short pants with the name Noel Gavie imprinted in the waistline and a sweatshirt believed to be owned by the suspect.

Investigators believed that the suspect changed his clothes when he went out of the victim's house to mislead the investigators.

But Baguio said it was likely that the suspect stole the shorts from another person. Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

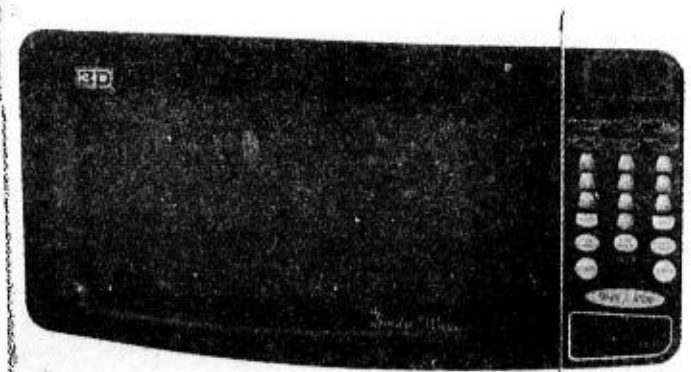


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Peso falls to 53.71 to dollar

(From page A1)

knowledge of the peso would remain weak "for the time being, along with other currencies."

Buenaventura also said Monday's nervousness was "exacerbated by what's happening in Argentina."

A flare-up in Argentina's long-simmering economic crisis began last week with a huge sell-off of blue chip stocks by skittish investors. Many worried the Argentine troubles could damage emerging markets elsewhere in Latin America and around the globe.

At issue is the country's ability to pay off \$130 billion in debt, slash public spending and put its finances in order.

Abu Sayyaf

A trader from a foreign bank said the market was "generally disappointed" with the way the Macapagal administration was handling the hostage crisis in Basilan.

Buenaventura said it would take some time before the administration's efforts to solve the peace and order problem in Basilan could bear fruit.

"The market is waiting for the results and it has to be convinced that the measures are effective," he said.

Were it not for the hostage crisis in Basilan and kidnappings in Metro Manila, the local currency should be closely tracking the Thai baht, according to Buenaventura.

The baht is trading about 45 against the dollar.

Even so, Buenaventura pointed out that regional currencies had depreciated by a range of 5 to 14 percent this year.

He said the peso had slid by 6.6 percent against the dollar since the start of the year while the Indonesian rupiah had fallen by 14 percent, the Japanese yen by 9 percent, the Thai baht by 5 percent and the Singapore dollar by 5.5 percent.

Budget deficit

Another concern of investors was an INQUIRER report that the government was planning to raise its deficit target this year to P180 billion as a result of higher military spending in its campaign to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf.

The finance department, however, said the government was keeping its budget deficit target for 2001 at P145 billion pesos despite a forecast of lower collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue this year.

"We are constantly reviewing our targets in the light of internal and external developments and our latest consolidation indicates that we will be able to meet our P145-billion deficit target," Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said in a statement on Monday.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council agreed to scale down the expected BIR collection by P20 billion this year due to the general sluggishness of the economy, hit by

the slowdown in major trading partners Japan and the United States.

Lower BIR collections

But the government said the lower BIR collections would be offset by additional savings and higher proceeds from the sale of state assets for the rest of the year.

Tax collections fell short of target by P12.6 billion in the first five months of the year. However, non-tax revenues exceeded the target by P6.3 billion.

Non-tax revenues are mainly government fees and charges, privatization proceeds, foreign grants and earnings of the Bureau of Treasury.

"We had some offsetting gains brought in by the non-tax revenues in the first half of the year and we project that we will be able to earn P10.7 billion above target in this area," Camacho said.

The revised total revenue target for 2001 is now at P558.2 billion, about P10 billion lower than the original target.

The government earlier said it was planning to raise P7 billion from the sale of state assets this year.

The national budget deficit in the first five months of the year reached P58.326 billion, up sharply from P28.079 billion as of April but lower than the target budget deficit level of P61.8 billion for the period.

Banks summoned

In still another move to shore up the peso, the BSP summoned bank presi-

dents anew yesterday to caution them against putting more pressure on the peso by churning or trading among themselves as well as violating foreign exchange policies.

The BSP found out last week that more than 10 foreign and local banks were violating the central bank's strict disclosure of dollar transactions worth more than \$10,000.

Buenaventura said the Bankers Association of the Philippines, umbrella organization of the country's 45 commercial lenders in the country, had agreed to police its ranks and cooperate with the central bank.

Deja vu

A trader noted that the peso's weakness brought back memories of the last days of the Estrada administration. On Jan. 17, a day after the Senate voted not to open the second envelope related to the Jose Velarde account, the peso closed at P52.78 to \$1.

On Jan. 18, the peso closed at a record low of P54.79. The following day, it dropped to a day low of P55.75 to \$1 but bounced back to close at P47.50 after the military threw its support behind EDSA People Power II that toppled Joseph Estrada.

Camacho said he expected the peso to strengthen in a few months. *With reports from AFP, AP, Reuters*

For Loi, up front and personal

BY CATHY YAMSUAN

SENATOR Luisa "Loi" Estrada would like to sit in the first row, directly in front of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she delivers her State of the Nation Address before Congress next week.

Estrada would not reveal the reason except to say that she wants to observe the President's "body language and facial expressions" during her speech.

"I understand that legislators are treated on a first come, first served basis so I want to be there early. I want to sit in the front row if I can get a seat there," Estrada said in Filipino.

By tradition, the President delivers a SONA on the fourth Monday of July to signal the opening of the regular session of Congress.

Even if she arrives late, she would still be in the front row. Senators get front row seats in this annual event.

But senators are seated alphabetically. Though Estrada may get a front seat, she would not be directly in front of the woman who replaced her husband.

Alphabetically, the sitting arrangement would place Estrada at the ninth desk from the left in the front row. So, she will be seated slightly left of center of the podium when viewed from the gallery.

The seating arrangement of senators will be as follows: Sen. Edgardo Angara on the extreme left, followed by Senatos Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Joker Arroyo, Robert Barbers, Rodolfo Biazon, Renato Cayetano, Noli de Castro,

Franklin Drilon and Estrada.

"I want to see everything. Being in the front row would mean I will be very attentive. Besides, I might fall asleep if I am at the back row. In front, I will not get distracted," Estrada said.

Estrada stressed she will not feel awkward in Ms Macapagal's presence, but would not know if the President would be comfortable seeing her in the front row while delivering her first SONA.

"I recall during the day the senators were proclaimed, Noli (de Castro) pulled me toward the President. I didn't feel awkward even when I was next to her. I only noted that when it was time for her to raise our hands, she transferred to another spot," Estrada recalled.

"I don't know if that meant she felt awkward. I would not really know if the President would not be comfortable in my presence," Estrada added.

Estrada said she has no plans of asking for a special permit to allow her husband to attend the SONA like all past presidents.

"We will not make that request. Anyway, we know that the authorities will not allow him to attend anyway, despite his status as why bother," Estrada said.

At one point in her news conference, Estrada said she found Ms. Macapagal's supposed plan to commute a death sentence against her husband as "uncalled for." It was like she herself was already convicting my husband. It's like saying that a death sentence is what she wants for my husband," Estrada complained. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Loi's phone rings...

(From page A1)

ence with the Senate reporters.

The subjects covered yesterday ranged from her husband's court cases to where she would want to sit in Congress *(Story on Page A12)* when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the opening of Congress on July 23.

Suddenly, her cell phone rang—to the tune of "Gloria Labandera."

With its vulgar lyrics, it had been the theme song of the pro-Estrada multitudes last April during their five-day occupation of the EDSA Shrine billed as EDSA III.

The sound of the familiar ring tone startled the reporters. One noted, "Ma'am, that's 'Gloria Labandera.'"

The lady senator Estrada beamed a wide, mischievous smile. Rather than hitting back at her singing detractors, President Macapagal had seized on the jingle to proclaim her affinity for *labanderas* (laundrywomen).

Proudly, she proclaimed that she was, in fact, the granddaughter of a laundrywoman. Her supporters started a movement of laundrywomen called "Alerta Labandera" which seeks to improve the lives of about a hundred barangays in Metro Manila.

Ironically, while the President has rallied laundrywomen to her side, they

will be among those who will take a mass leave on July 23 to join protest rallies against her at the opening of Congress.

The laundrywomen will be among the thousands of women which the militant group Gabriela said it would mobilize to support the P125 wage hike demand and protest the Macapagal administration's alleged failure to provide health services and other basic social services for women and their children. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Gabriela said women workers will be supporting the Kilusang Mayo Uno's call to go on a mass leave on the day of the SONA despite threats by big companies to terminate workers who will join the rallies.

The women will stage a laundrywashing skit mocking the "anti-poor policies" of the President.

"Women are very much disappointed that this woman-led government is causing more distress to Filipino women," said Emmi De Jesus, Gabriela deputy secretary general.

De Jesus said Ms Macapagal had practically endorsed the continued suffering of the Filipino people by her "silence in the face of increases in the prices of goods, petroleum products and water rates."

"At the same time, she continues to deny workers decent wages that will help us cope with the crisis," De Jesus said.

Jesuits say...

(From page A1)

Calug said he immediately sought permission from his superiors to provide Mawany's family safe havens. He disclosed that it was Fr. Romeo Intengan, Jesuit provincial, who gave him the go signal.

"I immediately made arrangements and was able to find them several safe places to stay in. They were moving around from the evening of June 26 to the morning of June 30," Calug said. "I did not ask who would be implicated in what crimes because the less I know, the better."

Out of compassion

Asked what convinced him and Intengan to help Mawany, Calug said: "What moved me was Ador's two kids. Whether the allegations of Ador were true or not, out of compassion and for humanitarian reasons, the kids must be secured."

"The stand of my superiors was that if Ador's testimony is really vital, for the good of the country, let us provide the safe house. Tell the government to get material evidence and we have to be very fair," Calug said.

Calug disclosed that the Jesuits had moved Mawany's family twice.

Within that week, Calug said, they only learned from Mawany about a destabilization plot allegedly hatched by Lacson against the Macapagal administration and the inclusion of 15 individuals in a supposed "hit list."

During the entire week, Mawany appeared depressed, anxious and fearful, according to the priest. "He even asked me if he did the right thing. *Gumitid ang luha niya hanggang baba* (His tears trickled down to his chin). I said *'mahirap yata magpagpang kun nagpagpang lang ito* (it's hard to pretend if he's lying)."

Calug said he contacted an official of a civil society group on June 29 "to ask if it would be possible for them to make arrangements for the temporary inclusion of Mawany and his family in the group of witnesses for the cases against (deposed President) Joseph Estrada."

The priest said that at that time he did not know the people responsible for the crimes as he was avoiding the subject that Mawany would eventually tell the world.

Sin of confession

"We have what we call the 'sin of confession.' If I took Ador's confession, I would be barred from discussing Ador in public," Calug said.

The priest said he was aware that the witnesses in the cases filed against Estrada had security arrangements because he had earlier helped organize a Mass for them and the prosecutors.

Calug said that on June 29 Mawany expressed to him his concern that his family had no protection save for the fact that they were in hiding. "This was what prompted me to make the call for possible protection, and this was the only time my contact, who led us to Corpus, knew of Mawany," the priest said.

The member of the civil society contacted Corpus, who immediately interviewed Mawany, according to the priest. Corpus agreed to take the whistle-blower in his custody.

Best chance

"When I later told Mawany that it was Corpus who was willing to talk to him, he asked me if we could trust him. Though I did not personally know Corpus, I simply said that Corpus seemed to be our best chance for protection at that point. My faith and trust in Corpus were based purely on the word of my contact and on what I had heard about Corpus from other friends," Calug said.

"It was only the week after I turned over Mawany to Corpus that I finally got to meet the colonel in person," the priest narrated.

It was on June 30 that Mawany finally agreed to be transferred to Isafp, Calug said.

The priest distributed copies of his letter to Lacson, along with his narration of the events from June 26 to June 30.

"I respectfully share with you a statement I am releasing to the media today with regard to how Angelo 'Ador' Mawany and his family eventually were placed in the custody of Col. Victor Corpus of Isafp. I hope this simple narration of the events from June 26 to June 30, 2001 will put to rest the confusion over the 'source' of Mawany. My statement contains further details," Calug told Lacson in the letter.

Mawany, Clavio and a battery of lawyers joined Calug in the press conference.

34 Abu suspects charged in court

(From page A1)

Hall of Justice in Zamboanga City around 4:10 p.m. for a summary inquest. They were taken to the office of Regional Prosecutor Wilfredo Yu.

The suspects were tied to one another with packaging tape, torn cloth, rope and wire.

"This is not right, it's a horrifying experience for me," Osin Abdulkarim, president of the Basilan Electric Cooperative, complained to the INQUIRER.

Munap Salipuddin, who had a slight injury in his right eye, said the government should produce material evidence before accusing him and his dentist-son Mannar.

"Why are we being treated this way? We have committed no crime," said Salipuddin, a 57-year-old religious leader of Barangay Tabuk in Basilan.

Most of the suspects appeared to be wearing the same clothes they had on when they were arrested. A number wore a blue T-shirt marked "Southcom relief mission."

Two plastic bags containing new slippers were seen being taken inside the office of Assistant Regional Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron, apparently for distribution to the suspects.

Maj. Alberto Gepilano, civil-military operations officer of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the 28 were earlier taken to the brigade headquarters from the Southern Command in Zamboanga City on board military helicopters.

Two armored personnel carriers and three military trucks loaded with soldiers, undercover military intelligence officers and policemen accompanied the suspects to the Hall of Justice.

Cabaron identified the 28 as Rabiche Tumanggong, Sadat Abdulgani Hussin, Marvin Fernandez Hamizon, Marvin Uyag Hassim, Bobby Abdulajid Alonto, Selkie Karama Abdurasis, Abdulgafar Hadji Yusup, Ebrahim Hamie, Sajid Asaha, Ping Chiong Tan, Adulmoner Hasim Salipuddin, Hadji Mohammad Isah Palaw, Badran Abdulhamid, Anwar Abdulhamid, Munib Albani, Masser Lim Omar, Romy Hairal, Gaafar Mundi, PO1 John Ali, Munap Abdul Salipuddin,

Hadji Abdulgani Abbas, Osin Abduracim, Sirad Antonio, Inno Haser Hagasi, Nimrod Kallong Abubakar, Iklaman Abdulsalam Taligon, Jalil Sansawi and Otoh Hapikin.

Martial law

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said a state of martial law was prevailing in the South.

"The so-called anti-terrorism operations are fast turning into a reign of terror for the civilian populations of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Zamboanga City. We fear for their lives and liberties," Bayan chair Rafael Mariano said in a statement.

"An undeclared martial law prevails in these areas, and the President must be held accountable for it," Mariano said.

But Malacañang defended the arrests as "methodical and systematic," although it admitted that 19 of those taken since Thursday had been freed for lack of evidence.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the government would welcome charges from those who were wrongfully arrested.

"But as we pointed out, we have not received any specific complaints about human rights violations or wrongful arrests," he told reporters.

"It's not that the arrests were done in a hurry. But in an emergency situation, (it happens) that after an investigation, no evidence is found against some of those who were arrested," he added.

In a radio interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the arrests followed "correct procedures."

"But as (Justice Secretary) Perez said, this is not the ordinary arrest that you will see in Metro Manila," Golez said.

Tiglao said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had asked the CHR to send a team to Zamboanga City to monitor whether the rights of the suspects were being violated.

"We are calling on the civilian supporters of the Abu Sayyaf to cooperate with the government and to tell what they know, especially where the hostages are, because they could be charged

as participants in kidnapping for ransom," Tiglao said.

He said co-conspirators would receive the maximum penalty of death if found guilty.

Positive ID

Assistant Regional Prosecutor Cabaron said that based on the initial investigation conducted by the nine-member team of prosecutors, all 28 suspects had been positively identified by 10 witnesses as active members and supporters of the Abu Sayyaf.

"There is a heavy case against the 28 because the witnesses are their comrades," he said.

He described the case as "our special project, because this is a very controversial case."

Cabaron said the suspects would be turned over to the police and would possibly be held at the Zamboanga City Reformatory Center while the case was being heard.

But Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, police chief for Western Mindanao, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the suspects would be brought back to the 103rd Army Brigade.

"We will have to discuss it. I have no idea yet," Dizon said.

Supt. Mario Yanga, Zamboanga City police chief, said they were not prepared to admit the 28 suspects.

"It will be a big nightmare for us here. They will probably be brought back to Basilan, also by helicopter. Definitely, they can't stay here."

Senior Insp. Nickson Muksan, First City Mobile Group chief, said he had been informed by higher officials that the 28 would be turned over to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

"They will land in the city jail here, because after the inquest, they should go direct to prison," he said.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling said among those arrested were three "sub-commanders" of the bandit group, each with a prize of P1 million, and four others with a prize of P150,000.

According to Southcom records, authorities have arrested a total of 51. Thirty-four were arrested in Basilan

Aussie probers focus on time of massacre

(From page A1)

Police are still trying to determine the significance of a racial slur scrawled on the wall, the Times said.

Both reports quoted Inspector Detective Geoff Leonard of Strike Force Tawas, the team set up to investigate the murders of Teddy, his wife Mary Josephine Lowiva and their daughter Clodine, 18, who were found stabbed to death in their middle-class home. Both women's throats had been cut.

Leonard told the Canberra Times that the women were apparently killed some time before Mr. Gonzales, who made a habit of leaving work around 6 p.m. and arriving home around 7 p.m., came.

He said Lowiva left her husband's law office shortly around 5 p.m.

Leonard also said police had established that Clodine had been at home during the day, but were unsure of her late-afternoon movements.

The police, according to the reports, are expected to confirm the exact time

of the deaths very soon.

Detectives earlier said that Mr. Gonzales was probably killed after he disturbed the killers of his wife and daughter.

The two newspapers also reported how an elderly neighbor of the Gonzaleses recalled how Sef had run to him for help after discovering the murders.

"He was out of his head, the poor boy. He was saying, 'John help me, please help me,'" John Atamian, 64, was

quoted as saying.

"I said 'what's wrong?' and he started to drag me across the street."

"He said, 'Come and have a look what they've done to my parents, my family,' but I couldn't go into the house," Atamian said.

Philippine Ambassador to Australia Delia Domingo-Albert Canberra faxed the news clippings along with a copy of her letter to Sef expressing her "sincere condolences" and promising to "extend any assistance you may need."

Bentains want to exhume 5 more bodies in Pampanga

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE FAMILY and lawyers of casino employee Edgar Bentain want to exhume the bodies of five more "salvage" victims that authorities had found in Lubao, Pampanga, together with the remains of a man stuffed in a steel drum.

Bentain's brother Edcel yesterday said he and his family were not giving up on their search for Bentain's body even if the remains that they dug up last Friday belonged to another victim.

"We were told that Lubao is a graveyard for 'salvage' victims. One of the five bodies could be of Edgar's," lawyer Leonardo de Vera said.

"We will not leave any stone unturned. We're looking for a missing man and right now, we are on

the right track."

De Vera heads a seven-man legal panel that would prosecute Bentain's abductors and suspected killers.

Angelo Mawany alias Ador, who identified himself as an ex-civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, had claimed that PAOCTF agents poured concrete on the body of Bentain while he was in a steel drum.

Mawany said Bentain was later buried alive in lahar near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga on Jan. 16, 1999.

Mawany claimed Sen. Panfilo Lacson had ordered Bentain's abduction and murder of Bentain for releasing a videotape showing then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

He said he was part of the six-man team, led by Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino, that carried out the "operation."

A protégé of Estrada, Lacson currently headed the Philippine National Police and the PAOCTF.

The Bentains were told by authorities that there were five other bodies of "salvage" victims that were buried in the Sto. Domingo Cemetery in Lubao, together with the remains of a man in a green steel drum reportedly found in 1997.

Quoting police investigators in Lubao, Edcel said the bodies were recovered in separate occasions in Lubao and nearby areas. They were "recklessly" buried in worn-out concrete tombs in Sto. Domingo, he said.

"My brother could be one of the five bodies. We want everything exhumed."

Accompanied by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, Edcel, De Vera and Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption dug up the remains found in a steel drum to determine if these belonged to Bentain.

The skull and bones were brought to the NBI crime laboratory in Manila for forensic and DNA tests.

De Vera described Friday's exhumation as a "breakthrough" since it confirmed that people were killed, stuffed in steel drums and thrown into lahar dunes in Pampanga. "We have validated some of the points raised by Ador."

Edcel yesterday said he wanted an independent team of forensics and DNA experts to examine the remains found in the steel drum.

He criticized NBI agents and members of the Lubao police force for their alleged "sloppy" exhumation of the remains last Friday.

He said he could have easily ascertained if the remains were that of his brother's if not for a missing jaw. He said Bentain had a metal jacket planted on his jaw after he met an accident.

Ani to press death penalty for Erap

(From page A1)

to life imprisonment" in keeping with her stand against capital punishment.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was "not bothered" by the subsequent angry reaction of Estrada, who accused her of "conditioning the mind of the people that I will be convicted."

"She was very frank in the interview with the Japanese journalists and she's taking the blows, rolling with the punches," Tiglao said.

"The President is entitled to her own opinion," he added.

He said she was in no way attempting to influence the Sandiganbayan, which is trying Estrada's case.

"She didn't and she doesn't want to influence the Sandiganbayan," he said. "The fact that a sitting President thinks she would commute if ever Mr. Estrada is convicted doesn't affect any decision of the Sandiganbayan."

The Ombudsman said Ms Macapagal's comments on the case had no bearing on the prosecution of Estrada, but Former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas accused the President of indirectly influencing the Sandiganbayan.

Cuevas, who joined Estrada's legal team last week, noted there had been instances when the impartiality of the justices hearing Estrada's case had been questioned and they could rule "in favor of what the President would like."

"It is not definite that it (Ms Macapagal's comment) will influence them, but the message is there," Cuevas said in a television interview.

Volatile

He warned that Ms Macapagal's statement did not sit well with Estrada's many followers. "The issue of Estrada in connection with this plunder case is highly volatile," he stressed.

"Would it not have been better for the President to state 'let us not discuss that matter because they've not even started trying the case?'"

Another Estrada lawyer, Rene Saguisag, issued a statement on the President's remarks on the case.

"Maybe she meant well but it is far from clear that she was being fair," he said.

"She should be cautioned not to speak in a manner that would indicate prejudgment of the case against one presumed to be innocent," Saguisag added.

He also said that Ms Macapagal had abstained from voting on the death penalty law when she was a senator. She said that the death penalty was against her conscience, but added that her constituents were for it, according to Saguisag.

Palace tells...

(From page A1)

have the force, they should lobby the wage and productivity boards to accept their position," Tiglao said of the labor groups.

The provincial or regional wage and productivity boards are empowered to issue orders for wage adjustments. But they have yet to meet to respond to demands for wage increases, according to Tiglao.

Workers are threatening to mount a large protest rally on Monday while she delivers her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the opening of the 12th Congress.

To fine-tune her Sona, the President has been holding a series of special Cabinet meetings since last week.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal's Sona would be different from that of her predecessor, deposed President Joseph Estrada, in two ways.

Ms Macapagal is forging a "consensus in vision" with her Cabinet members. And instead of issuing "motherhood statements," Ms Macapagal will present detailed action plans, according to Tiglao.

He cited the instructions given to Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza to distribute 200,000 hectares of private and public agricultural lands within the year.

Moving forward

Tiglao disclosed that "moving forward" was the theme of the President's Sona in addition to her "healing presidency."

But militant groups that played key roles in People Power II do not feel that the President was moving forward.

They announced that they would give the President a grade of 65 percent.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said the grade was based on her indifference to the proposed wage increase, human rights abuses in Mindanao, rising cost of oil prices, kid glove treatment of Estrada, never-ending courtship of the military, demolitions and tuition increases.

"We are very disappointed with the President's performance so far so she barely passed in our grading sheet," Teddy Casio, Bayan secretary general, said.

"Her performance is no different from that of the Estrada administration. Her assumption to power was radical but she remains passive to the people's legitimate concerns up to this moment," Casio said.

He said protesters were preparing an effigy of the President that "will show her failure to live up to the expectations of People Power II."

At the height of the anti-Estrada protest actions, militant groups used a huge image of an octopus to represent the former President and his cronies,

He quoted then Senator Macapagal as saying she was "torn between conscience and constituency" and would thus abstain from entering a vote on Senate Bill No. 891.

Desierto, however, said "it is the prerogative of the President" to choose whether or not to grant pardons and commutations, and that he would not pass judgment on her statement.

"It is not within our province to interfere with the exercise of discretion of the Chief Executive," he said. But, he added, "the prosecution will pursue the case aggressively."

For her part, Marilyn Quirrez, Bayan Muna-Quezon chair, joined other militants in assailing the President, saying: "We would like to remind Ms Macapagal that she is the President of the Republic... The Filipino people are crying for Mr. Estrada's blood."

Live media coverage

In another feature of Estrada's case, the Department of Justice has formally asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision banning live media coverage of Estrada's trial in the Sandiganbayan.

In a 23-page motion for reconsideration, the government rebutted point for point the grounds cited by the high court in dismissing the original petition of the justice department, the Kapitan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas and other petitioners.

Importantly, the DOJ and the other petitioners are now amenable to pool coverage using a "single fixed camera" and tape recorder to record the trial, as proposed by SC Justice Artemio Panganiban.

"Our (motion) seeks to satisfy the need of people to know what's happening in the trial subject to the limitations of space at the Sandiganbayan," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said in a press briefing yesterday.

On July 29, the Supreme Court, voting 8-6, denied the petition seeking live TV and radio coverage.

Motion to go home

In the Sandiganbayan, the Estrada lawyers will argue today their motion asking the court to allow Estrada and his co-accused son Jinggo to go home to their Polk Street mansion in Greenhills to "prepare for trial and pre-trial" in the perjury case.

Estrada is accused of perjury for allegedly misdeclaring his wealth. He is also accused of illegally using an alias to hide his alleged secret bank accounts.

His lawyers filed their motion with the Sandiganbayan's first division, which is hearing the perjury case, but the first division referred it to the third division, which is hearing the plunder case and has already denied a similar

petition for house arrest.

Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena of the first division said he had no reason to object to the motion because the perjury case is a bailable offense.

The pre-trial of the perjury case is set for Aug. 2, when both the defense and the prosecution will start holding meetings to agree on certain facts of the case.

But Desierto said he would vigorously oppose the motion during a hearing today at the anti-graft court.

"It is a motion for house arrest in disguise, a matter which has already been finally resolved by the court," he said.

Desierto added that it was the first time that he had encountered a motion "to go home to prepare for trial."

"Why will he be allowed to go home? To prepare for trial? For what... to get evidence?" he asked.

"The law is very clear—the accused... should be in jail. Period," he stressed.

In Malacañang, Tiglao said there was no decision yet on whether Estrada should be allowed to attend Ms Macapagal's State of the Nation Address at the joint opening of the 12th Congress on July 23.

'Loi may not post bail'

In a letter to Perez, Saguisag

asked the justice secretary to caution Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio "to go slow" in issuing statements that might have a "destabilizing effect" on the political and economic situation.

Gervacio had earlier said that the Sandiganbayan had not favored a prosecution motion to withdraw a graft complaint against former first lady Sen. Loi Estrada, and that state prosecutors would have to present evidence against her if the court required it.

In a letter to Perez dated July 13, Saguisag said Joseph Estrada "told me yesterday his wife might not be inclined to post bail if arrested."

"Three Estradas in detention (are) all the market needs," Saguisag wrote. "They should study the implications of three Estradas in jail."

The defense also filed a manifestation to question Perez on his position that Cuevas' pension as a retired justice of the Court of Appeals should be forfeited because he is lawyering for Estrada.

Since the law bars retired judicial officers receiving state pensions from representing public officials in cases against the government, Saguisag argued that Cuevas was representing a private citizen. With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; AFP

GMA meets secretly with opposition senators

(From page A1)

He said that he had dinner with the President last Friday, and that a "common friend" whom he refused to name had arranged the meeting.

"It was not upon my initiative. A common friend approached me and broached the idea (of the meeting)," Lacson told reporters.

He said it was easy for him to agree. "I have no fight with the President. We have been friends since she was vice president," he pointed out.

An INQUIRER source said the President also had Angara as dinner guest last month at her home in Forbes Park.

Tiglao said there was as yet no "specific plans" for a meeting with Sen. Luisa Ejercito, wife of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Lacson, Angara and Ejercito are among the new senators most identified with Estrada, who is awaiting trial for plunder.

Reaching out

Tiglao said a distinction should be made between "criminal cases and the pursuit of justice" on one hand, and "the need for the President of the republic to reach out to senators" on the other.

He said the government would pursue charges against Lacson, one of the opposition figures suspected of fomenting the pro-Estrada rebellion that culminated in the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

"Definitely, this government will still pursue all charges that Lacson has been involved in criminal activities," Tiglao said.

He said the Department of Justice and the PNP were "pursuing all their leads." Nevertheless, he said, "the President, as head of state, would have to talk to a senator of the republic whatever the crime he has

been charged with."

As President, she has to "deal with duly elected figures," Tiglao said, adding:

"A second aspect of the presidency, of course, is to enforce the law."

The source who disclosed Angara's meeting last month with the President said she asked Angara to "help" her in her legislative program.

Ms Macapagal also reportedly promised Angara that she would keep her hands off the battle for Senate president.

But Angara, the lone opposition aspirant for Senate president, is angry that the President has apparently broken her word, the source said.

"She has been calling the senators. She's actively campaigning and meddling in the affairs of the Senate," the source said.

The President is said to favor Sen. Franklin Drilon for the top post in the Senate. Asked last week whether she had expressed support for him, she said: "Not in public."

No commitments

Tiglao said the meeting between the President and Lacson was cordial.

"And no specific commitments (were made), but a signal from incoming Senator Lacson that he won't be obstructionist," Tiglao said.

Lacson told reporters that he took the opportunity to assure Ms Macapagal that he was not involved in any plot to destabilize her administration.

"I said that if ever there is a destabilization plot, it would not come from my side," he said.

In the pro-Estrada rallies last April at Edsa, Lacson was one of the senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa who harangued the crowd.

On May 1, the Estrada supporters marched from Edsa and stormed Malacañang in an attempt to physi-

cally remove Ms Macapagal from the seat of power. "I told (the President) about my (non-involvement) to quell any apprehension she might have about a supposed destabilization plot," Lacson said.

Tiglao said the President had asked law enforcement agencies to look into a statement by the military's intelligence chief, Col. Victor Corpus, that Lacson was a "big national security threat."

"Colonel Corpus must have very solid reasons to make statements like that," Tiglao said. "He is known to be a man of integrity, and is very experienced in his work." With a report from Cathy C. Yamsuan

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'Bata' banners RP team to KL

BY JUNE NAVARRO

EFREN "Bata" Reyes will banner a contingent of 300-plus in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September and is expected to win two gold medals in billiards and snooker.

Joaquin De Tagle, president of the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines, yesterday confirmed the participation of Reyes, who is tipped to compete in the 8-ball and 15-ball rotation.

Included in the BSCP's final lineup are Warren Kiamco, Antonio Lining, Reynaldo Grande, James Ortega, Vivencio Tanio, Lee Van Corteza, Benjamin Guevarra Jr. and Marlon Manalo, reigning Asian snooker champion.

Like Reyes, Lining and Kiamco are presently competing in the World Pool Championships in Cardiff, Wales.

Briton upsets 'Django', 5-1

GREAT Britain's Gary Ponting finally barged into the winner's circle Sunday when he upset Filipino Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the Admiral World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

The 26-year-old Ponting, a snooker pro, routed Bustamante, 5-1, after losing his previous three matches.

With three matches left to play, Ponting, who came through on a reserve list after failing to qualify in Bristol, still has a chance to get into the last 64 knock-out stages.

Efren "Bata" Reyes will face George San Souci of the United States today in a Group 8 match. ESPN will start airing the matches at 9 tonight.

Said Ponting: "I've really played well in all my matches but this is the first one where it's all gone right. Francisco missed a couple and I dished up but I feel I played the same here as I did in the others."

"I've played four and the three I've lost have been 5-4's and 5-3's so my rack difference will be good and that means I need two wins from my last three matches to give myself a chance. Beating such an excellent player though has given me so much confidence."

In other upsets, improving young Polish player Radoslaw Babica from Poznan, came from 4-1 down

"With this lineup, we are at least guaranteed of three gold medals out of 10 events," said De Tagle, who submitted the final composition of his team yesterday to the POC office in Vito Cruz, Manila.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante, a shoo-in to the SEAG delegation, begged off as he opted to spend time with his family in Germany.

The field is expected to increase as aspirants from pencak silat, judo, wushu, men's volleyball, cycling are in the thick of their qualifying events.

In another development, Arnel Querimit finished second in the 138-kilometer open individual road race in the 21st Asian Cycling championships in Taichung country, Taiwan.

Querimit, 22, clocked 3:03:33.14, placing second to 1997 Marlboro Tour champion Wong Kam-po of Hong Kong, who crossed the tape in 3:03:31.18. A Japanese won the bronze.

against fancied American Corey Deuel to give himself four wins out of four and cement his place in the last 64.

Babica, who upset American ace Shannon Daulton at last year's tournament, could prove to be a real threat after today's eliminations.

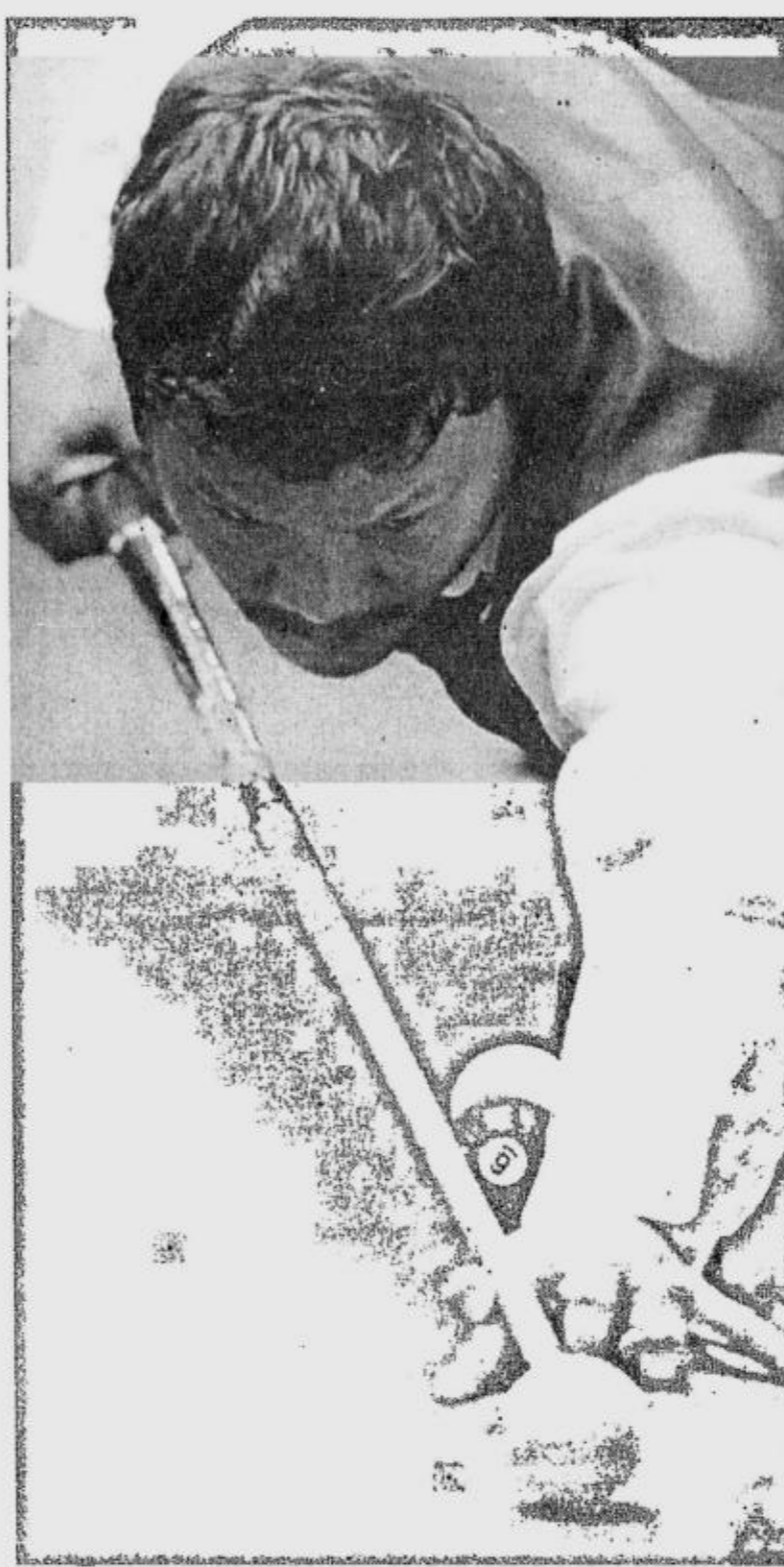
Another player to take his tally to four wins from four matches is Australian all-rounder Quinten Hann, who beat defending champion Fong Pang Chao 5-1.

Hann, who is sporting a neat Elvis retro-look, always looked in control as he limited Chao's table visits and cashed in on his errors.

Said Quinten: "I really haven't played 9-ball since Cardiff last year and I really didn't expect to win. Chao missed a few balls and it wasn't a great match. Everyone's just warming up at the moment and looking to do just enough to get through. I'm playing well enough although my break isn't so good. As I'm through to the last 64 I'll spend the next couple of days working on that break."

The event has drawn 128 players from 44 countries, with \$300,000 at stake. The event is being beamed on ESPN to over 60 countries around the world.

Tables for the World Championship are provided by Brunswick, clothed by Simonis. The balls are by Saluc and racks by Lou Sardo Products. The event's official bookmaker is Stan James.



REYES displays lethal form against American Earl Strickland during their race-to-33 encounter recently in Manila. FILE PHOTO

Rubillar defense vs Mizuno

JUANITO Rubillar stakes his World Boxing Council international lightweight title for the second time when he fights Japanese Takahiko Mizuno on July 28 at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.



RUBILLAR

Rubillar successfully defended his title with a fifth round knockout of Fahsang Pow Pongsawang of Thailand last April 25 in Kidapawan, North Cotabato.

Scheduled for 12 rounds, the fight is one of three mainers in the card dubbed "Fist of Fury sa Casino Filipino-Parañaque."

It's being promoted by Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde and supported by Thunderbird and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Former world flyweight king Malcolm Tuñacao battles international flyweight titlist Randy Mangubat and bantamweight champion Ricky Gayman takes on Abner Cordero in the other headers.

"I want to have another crack at the world title," said the 24-year-old Rubillar of Mati, Davao Oriental. For ticket inquiries, call 825-7229.

Ari gets hero's welcome at Naia

TIGER Ari arrived to a hero's welcome yesterday from Japan after retaining his Orient Pacific Boxing Federation crown in Okayama.

Accompanied by his trainer, former world champion Erbito Salavarria, Tiger Ari was welcomed at the Naia by his fans and international fight promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde.

Tiger Ari stopped Japanese Kazunori Fujita in the second round Sunday night for his fifth title defense that improved his record to 56 wins, 3 losses and 3 draws with 26 knockouts.

A right hook followed by powerful blows to the left upper eye of Fujita prompted ring officials to halt the fight and declare Tiger Ari the winner by technical knockout.

Fujita later collapsed in the dressing room and had to be rushed to the hospital.

"We are considering a fight against WBC super-featherweight king Floyd Mayweather of the United States," said Elorde.



ROGGE



DAYRIT

Dayrit hails Rogge election as IOC head

'The doctor will boost anti-doping campaign in sports'

THE PHILIPPINES hailed yesterday the election of Belgian surgeon Jacques Rogge as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), saying it would boost anti-doping campaigns.

"Rogge's election should give fresh impetus to the battle against drugs in sport," Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit told AFP shortly after the results of the Moscow vote were announced.

"We believe that Mr. Jacques Rogge is very much qualified to succeed Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch. He's a very experienced IOC official and he's proven to have the same vision as Don Juan Antonio Samaranch."

Dayrit said the spread of illicit performance-enhancing drugs was "one of the more important concerns of the IOC, doping not only in the Games but also doping in sports."

He added: "Being a medical practitioner, we expect Dr. Rogge to give more impetus in trying to curb this particular menace to society."

Asked about Rogge's campaign to downsize the Games, Dayrit said there were "good points and bad points in doing that."

He said: "It is true that it has become so big lately, but for as long as the host country can still manage to do it, then I don't see any reason why not."

Nevertheless, he said there have been "radical changes" in the Games in the past 20 years, including the entry of professional athletes, as well as the commercialization and marketing of the Games.

"Just the same, the world welcomed all these changes. They were good for the athletes, good for the Games and good for sport overall. We should expect some other changes in the near future."

Maruyama wins, makes golf history

MILWAUKEE—Early in his career, Shigeki Maruyama made regular appearances on a Japanese variety show called Yume-ga-MoriMori, which means "Lots of Dreams."

He fulfilled one of them Sunday when he became the first Japanese player to win a PGA Tour event on the mainland, beating Charles Howell III in a play-off in the Greater Milwaukee Open.

And what's his next vision? Maruyama didn't need his interpreter to answer that one.

"Beat Tiger Woods!" he bellowed, flashing his ever-present smile a little wider than usual after imitating Tiger's trademark uppercut and jaw-dropping shout.

"Shigeki is a great player," Howell said. "He's probably one of the nicest guys out here. He's always smiling. But now he's obviously got a reason to smile."

Maruyama sank a 1.35-meter (4.5-foot) birdie putt on the first extra hole after Howell missed a 2.1-meter (7-foot) putt for par on the 18th at Brown Deer Park. AP

Goosen by 3

LOCH LOMOND, Scotland—Retief Goosen made a few mistakes at the end, only this time it didn't matter as the US Open champion cruised to a three-stroke victory Sunday in the Scottish Open.

A month after he botched the 72nd hole at Southern Hills only to come back and win the 18-hole playoff for his first major championship, Goosen went wire-to-wire at Loch Lomond and was never challenged. AP

RP jungolfers ready for San Diego World Jrs

SAN DIEGO, California—The Philippines will start its campaign in the San Diego World Junior Golf championship tomorrow in four age-group divisions at four courses here.

There are 22 entries this year playing in the 10-and-under, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-17.

The players, outfitted by Adidas, joined the parade of teams yesterday at the Torrey Pines grounds, with the legendary Billy Casper as guest of honor.

Two of the players—Tonlit Asistio and Jayvie Agojo—won their respective events last week at nearby Temecula.

Asistio, playing in the boys Class C, and Agojo, seeing action in girls Class B, won in convincing fashion.

Asistio won his division by four strokes over Tony Hu of China while Agojo led a 1-2 finish for the RP boys

with her six-shot romp over Katrina Gonzales.

Except for Agojo, who was still playing in the Optimist International in Florida up to yesterday and will fly straight to San Diego from there, everybody in the team has been accounted for.

"We're really happy with the victories of Tonlit and Jayvie. It bolsters our belief that what we have sent here is one

of the most prepared delegations in years," said Amalia Montecillo, chair of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Former national amateur champion Artemio Murakami leads the delegation that also includes circuit standouts Gerileen Handog, Xandrea Dizon, Miko Alejandro, IG Gutierrez, John Kier Abdon, Dottie Ardina and Debbie De Villa.

De Villa's sister, Angela Erika, scored a hole-in-one on No. 15 of the Presidio Hills pitch and putt course with a 9-iron and a Taylor Made Inner Gel ball in her first practice round on Saturday.

"The field is tough but we're confident our kids will pull off some surprises. It's been a long summer for them and this is their chance to put the icing on the cake," said Merwin Mediana, jungolf president.



WINNERS ALL

Champion Nelson Tang (Strato Vector car) is flanked by third placer Jonathan Zaguirre (left) and runnerup Danny Mendoza during the awarding ceremonies of the Tom's Sports Mini 4WD Challenger 2001. Tang pocketed P5,000 and a medal, Mendoza (Bracken car) P3,000 and Zaguirre (Bracken car) P1,000. The event was supported by Bench, Alabang Town Center, Norkis Yamaha, Channel V, Joey92.3 FM and KC393FM.

Shell's Pastor dominates Formula Toyota Cup

The overall standings after six rounds: 1. E. Pastor (Shell-Team TEC) 97 points; 2. R. Hermoso (Standard Insurance-KACE-Petron) 79; 3. K. Arambulo (Kart 1) 63; 4. J. Tuason (Standard Insurance-KACE) 49; 5. E. Carpio (Shell) 32; 6. C. Anton (Shell) 29; 7. J. Reluya (Shell) 25; 8-9 M. Sy (Kart Plaza), J. Garcia (Kart 1) 18; 10. M. Borja (Shell) 16.

ROSARIO, Batangas—Enzo Pastor of Shell-Team TEC dominated the sixth

round of the Formula Toyota Cup, one of the featured events at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Pastor, who seems to get better every race, submitted a fast time of 21:29.466 in the 14-lap race at the sprawling 2.9 kilometer long and 15-meter wide racetrack. His fastest lap time was 1:17.717 in the second lap.

Pastor's winning time was only slightly slower than the time of Jojo Silverio, who topped the equally-excit-

ing Asian Formula 3 Challenge.

The win—the third in six races—enabled Pastor to keep the lead in the overall standings with 97 points in this annual series sponsored by Shell, Norkis-Yamaha, Toyota, Kilton Motors, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, CGU Insurance, Llumar, Philippine Internet Directory and MOF Company.

A distant second overall was Hermoso, whose runner-up finish in the fifth round put him in second place with

79 points.

The day's other winner was J.P. Tuason of Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics, who finally barged into the win column with a smashing victory over Hermoso and Kirk Arambulo of Shell in the fifth round.

Tuason, son of the late car racing champion Arthur Tuason, clocked 24:45.079 against Hermoso's 24:47.272 and Arambulo's 23:47.223.

The former two time karting cham-

pion also finished runner-up to Pastor in the sixth round.

The awarding of trophies was held immediately after the races.

The results: Round 5—1. J. Tuason (Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics) 24:45.385; 2. R. Hermoso (Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics) 24:47.272; 3. K. Arambulo (Kart 1) 23:47.223. Round 6—E. Pastor (Shell-Team TEC) 21:30.686; 3. K. Arambulo (Kart 1) 21:31.502.

Hakkinen deflects Schumacher

SILVERSTONE, England—Mika Hakkinen finally became the topic of something other than retirement rumors by winning the British Grand Prix.

The victory Sunday was the first this season for the two-time Formula One champion. It also prevented pole-sitter Michael Schumacher from tying Alain Prost's career record of 51 victories.

Hakkinen's Mercedes-powered McLaren passed Schumacher's Ferrari on the fifth of 60 laps on the 5.140-kilometer (3.194-mile) course and won by 33.646 seconds. Hakkinen, who started second on the grid, got his 19th career victory and his first since Aug. 27 in the Belgian Grand Prix.

"It feels really good obviously after all these troubles that have been going on this year," Hakkinen said.

"I suppose it's a fear for every Grand Prix driver who has won. You think you're never going to win again."

Until Sunday, the 31-year-old Finn had been busy answering questions about retirement. He said over the weekend he would return next season, although he didn't say it would be with McLaren.

The victory was sweet in a bitter season in which Hakkinen's car failed to start three times at the beginning of races, battling glitches in the so-called launch control system. But the most disappointing moment came when his clutch blew while he had a whopping lead on the final lap of the Spanish Grand Prix.

That race April 29 became one of Schumacher's six victories this year. AP

PROVISIONAL TEAM NIXED

BAP row needs quick solution—Dayrit

By JUNE NAVARRO

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday said a provisional lineup for basketball wouldn't be necessary as it would be of no use until the Basketball Association of the Philippines leadership row is settled.

"There's no need for a temporary lineup. What we need is a quick solution acceptable to both parties," Dayrit told the Inquirer.

Dayrit was actually reacting to the proposal of SEA Games chief of mission Freddie Jalasco, who last week broached the idea of sending a temporary list of players to the Kuala Lumpur sportsfest on Sept. 9-17.

Jalasco said the SEA Games Organizing Committee would still allow an alteration of the list up to Sept. 7 when the representatives from competing countries hold a managers' meeting.

Dayrit also said that feuding parties in the BAP already agreed on the creation of a steering committee for the SEA Games, an offer proposed by the group of Gonzalo



PUYAT



LITERAL

"Lito" Puyat.

The committee, to be chaired by PLDT big boss Manny Pangilinan, will be composed of two representatives each from the warring factions of Puyat and Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal.

"Both already agreed on the formation of a steering committee. In fact, Literal already submitted his proposal to Pangilinan,"

Dayrit said.

Literal, however, denied this, insisting that the only solution to the BAP problem is to recognize his leadership.

Pangilinan, chair of Puyat's BAP, offered his help to mediate between Puyat and Literal in an effort to lift the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) suspension levelled against the BAP.

"The only problem now is the composition of the committee. But in the next few days, I expect both camps to make a compromise," said Dayrit.

He also confirmed that Literal has submitted a lineup to the POC composed of players who captured the title in the SEABA meet held recently here in Manila.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BILLIARDS: World Professional Pool Championships 2001, Day 3, 1st Session at 11 a.m. (r), 2nd Session at 5 p.m. (r) Day 4, 1st Session at 9 p.m., 2nd Session tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
 2001 RP Open at 10 p.m. on PTV 4
 Senior PGA BellSouth Senior Classic, First Round at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: WNBA All-Star Game at 8 a.m. (r—2 p.m.) on ESPN
CYCLING: 2001 Tour De France Highlights Stage #9 at 1:30 p.m. (r—7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
TENNIS: ATP Miller Lite Hall of Fame Tennis, Semifinals at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 7 p.m. (r) on ESPN
SOCCER: 2001 Korean Football League Match 4 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Ate Glo cares

IT is entirely wrong to say that President Macapagal-Arroyo does not care about sports, particularly the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur on Sept. 9-17. The truth is she does care, giving instruction to the Philippine Sports Commission to prioritize the country's preparation for the biennial sports meet.

"In fact, the President's instruction was clear," said PSC chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason. "It's the SEA Games. We believe a successful SEA Games campaign would reflect the condition of the country. Our performance in the SEA Games would be a good indicator of our country's state of health." However, Tuason did not make any prediction but he stressed that being a former National Sports Association president and Philippine Olympic Committee official himself, the "athletes will be ready and all their hard work will bear fruit in September."

Underlining a directive by President Macapagal, the government agency has coordinated with the POC and the various NSAs on the preparations for the SEA Games to prevent committing the mistakes of the past. A PSC-POC SEA Games Task Force has started operations as early as January to oversee administrative concerns. At present, the PSC has spent about P30 million on the training of athletes and acquisition of equipment for the 29 NSAs that are competing in the SEA Games. It has also spent about P50 million for the foreign exposure of these NSAs as part of their tuneup for the games.

"With enough lead time," Tuason added, "perhaps we would no longer go through such forgettable experiences such as when the shoes don't fit and the uniforms are either too small or too big."

And to make sure that our Kuala Lumpur-bound athletes are drug-free and in good shape, the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine has started doping tests, medical, dental, nutritional and physical fitness examinations to the members of the delegation.

Be that as it may, still I would like to ask chairman Tuason to instruct his commissioners and other members of his staff who have no personality whatsoever in the SEA Games to just stay home and conserve precious dollars. And best of all, these people who are going to Kuala Lumpur should render a public accounting of how much they would be spending for themselves. By doing so, these PSC officials would be showing to the people that they are not hiding something from the taxpayers who are paying for their upkeep.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



JUST ASKING. Some sectors have welcomed the active participation of running priest Fr. Robert Reyes in extending a helping hand to solve the problems confronting Philippine sports. Father Reyes last Friday handcarried a mean-spirited letter to President Macapagal denouncing the PSC for "being abusive and oppressive in dealing with the national athletes, coaches and other sports officials." However, some quarters also expressed alarm, raising the question: Isn't this "religious intervention" of sorts?

They cited that when Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the modern Olympic Games he prohibited "political, religious and economic interference in sports."

SPORTS TRIVIA. In 1950 at the inaugural World Basketball Championship held at Buenos Aires, host Argentina won the title, beating the United States, 64-50, in the final game. Argentina finished the final round undefeated in five games after also winning over Brazil (40-35), Chile (62-41), France (66-41) and Egypt (68-33). Second-placer United States, on the other hand, scored stirring victories over Egypt (34-32) and Brazil (45-42) while swamping Chile (44-29) and France (48-33). Chile, Brazil and Egypt wound up with similar 2-3 win-loss records in the final round, with France finishing sixth and last with a 0-5 slate. In the consolation pool, Peru finished on top, clinching seventh spot with a 3-0 card. Ecuador wound up eighth (2-1), Spain ninth (1-2) and Yugoslavia 10th and last, losing all its games in the tournament, the last by default (to Spain) in the classification round.

In the ensuing world championships, however, Yugoslavia served notice of its emergence as a new power in basketball. It won the silver medal in 1963 and 1967 and finally the gold in 1970.

Cardinals whip Stags; Bombers make it 3-0

By JUNE NAVARRO

GAMES THURSDAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
 12 nn—St. Benilde vs PCU (jrs/srs)
 3 p.m.—Letran vs San Beda (jrs/srs)

MAPUA drubbed San Sebastian College, 70-60, before an ecstatic crowd yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Anchored by the prolific plays of Steve Marucot and Edsel Feliciano, the Cardinals simply coasted to their first victory against two consecutive setbacks.

The Stags, who played pathetic ball throughout, were nowhere near the form that clobbered the UPHR Altas in double overtime last week as they tied their tormentors at 1-2.

Jose Rizal University streaked to its third consecutive triumph with an 80-73 beating of the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal in the other seniors match. The Altas dropped to 1-2.

Entangled in a tightly-fought contest in the first quarter, the Cardinals cut loose in the second canto and never looked back from there.

Marucot and Feliciano, both seasoned veterans, and rookie Jeffrey Martin conspired during that span that paved the way for the Cards to take their biggest lead, 64-58, only 3.59 minutes left in the game.

Back-to-back triples by Christian Coronel kept the match close, 66-60, but Feliciano sank a difficult undergoal stab and Marucot drained a floating jumper that eventually broke the hearts of the Stags.

In juniors play, the San Sebastian Staglets turned back defending champion Mapua Red Robins, 72-69, for their third straight victory.

Scores:
 MAPUA 70—Feliciano 22, Martin 19, Marucot 13, Lagar 5, Silva 3, Bangoy 3, Sta. Maria 2, Roxas 2, Dula 1, Buyco 0, Guervara 0.
 SSC 80—Macapagal 14, Nadeja 11, Coronel 8, Alfad 7, Uy 5, Moore 5, Falcasantos 4, De Leon 4, Reguerra 2, Najorda 0, Legarda 0.
 Quarters: 15-17, 34-28, 54-44, 70-60

Ateneo, Xavier cagers triumph

DEFENDING champions Ateneo de Manila and Xavier School posted hard victories Sunday at the start of the Milo Best SBP and Passerelle tournament at the St. Benedict College gym in Alabang.

The Ateneans nosed out Don Bosco Makati, 43-41, in an exciting SBP tussle, while Xavier trimmed University of Santo Tomas, 60-55, in a Passerelle contest.

In other SBP games, host St. Benedict crushed St. Francis, 70-48; San Beda blasted Northfield, 94-16; Xavier held off Marist, 47-41; and Southridge walloped Chiang Kai Shek, 48-14.

Bautista prevails

NINTH-ranked, 9 Paolo Bautista of La Salle Greenhills downed Rommelle delos Santos of Angelicum in 33 moves of a French defense in the fifth and final round to rule the Little Chess League training tournament held Sunday at the Greenhills Center.

The 13-year-old Bautista hurdled his last three games perfectly with a victory over Mark Tañamor in the third round and an upset win over second seed Emmanuel Emperado in the fourth round.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
NY YANKEES	53	37	.589	
BOSTON	53	38	.582	1/2
TORONTO	44	48	.478	10
BALTIMORE	41	50	.451	12 1/2
TAMPA BAY	29	63	.315	25
CENTRAL				
MINNESOTA	57	34	.625	
CLEVELAND	51	38	.573	5
C. W. SOX	44	45	.494	12
DETROIT	39	49	.443	16 1/2
KANSAS CITY	35	56	.385	22
WEST				
SEATTLE	66	25	.725	
OAKLAND	47	44	.516	19
ANAHIM	43	48	.473	23
TEXAS	27	54	.333	29
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
EAST	52	39	.571	
ATLANTA	51	41	.556	1
FLORIDA	46	46	.500	6 1/2
NY METS	41	52	.441	12
MONTREAL	39	53	.424	13 1/2
C. CURS				
HOUSTON	50	40	.556	3
ST. LOUIS	45	45	.500	8
MILWAUKEE	43	47	.478	10
PITTSBURGH	35	55	.389	19
CINCINNATI	34	57	.374	19 1/2
WEST				
ARIZONA	53	38	.582	
LOS ANGELES	50	42	.543	3 1/2
S. FRANCISCO	48	44	.522	5 1/2
SAN DIEGO	44	48	.478	9 1/2
COLORADO	40	51	.440	13

Interleague:
 Los Angeles 4, Pittsburgh 2; Tampa Bay 3, Atlanta 1; NY Mets 6, Toronto 2; Detroit 6, Cincinnati 5; Boston 6, Montreal 5; Philadelphia 9, NY Yankees 3; Chi. White Sox 3, Milwaukee 2; St. Louis 5, Minnesota 1; Chi. Cubs 2, Kansas City 1; Houston 6, Cleveland 3; Florida 7, Baltimore 1; Oakland 6, Colorado 3; San Diego 5, Seattle 1; Seattle 8, Arizona 0; San Francisco 7, Texas 6.

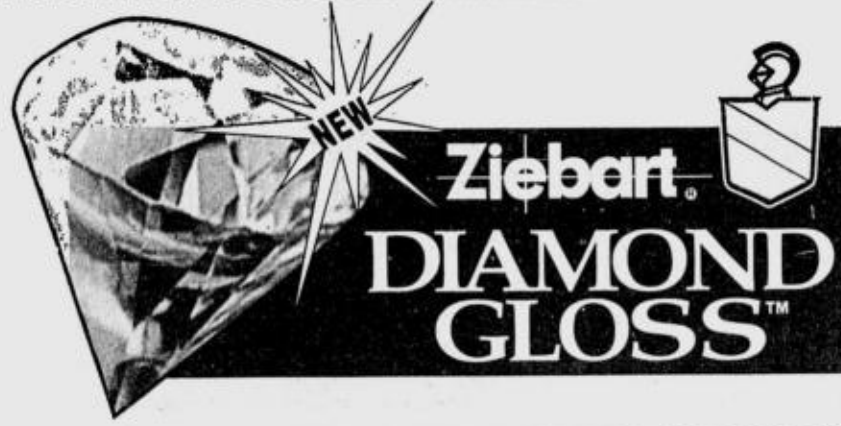


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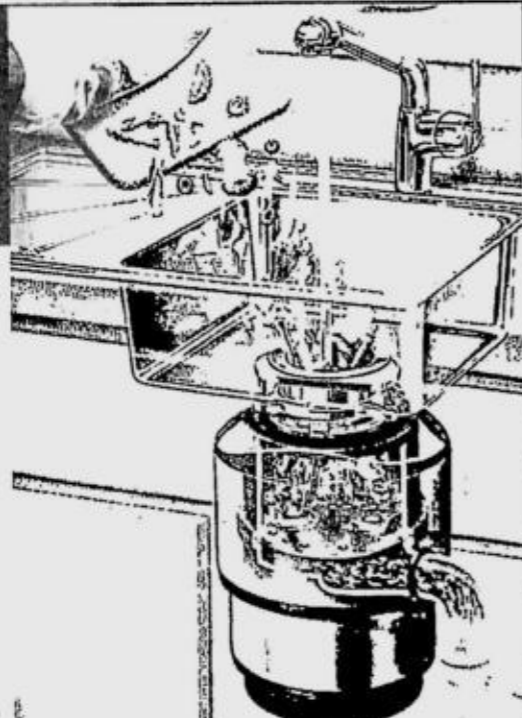
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2001

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

UST's Lao hits back at coach Del Rosario

BY DENNIS U. EROA

VETERAN slotman Gilbert Lao, the PBL's Most Improved Player and one of UST's key players last year, yesterday lashed back at coach Aric del Rosario for claiming that academic deficiencies led to his non-inclusion in this season's roster of the Growling Tigers.

"That's farthest from the truth," said the 6-foot-6 Lao, who still has a year of playing eligibility for the España-based cagers. "I have good grades in the first semester, but the school stripped me of my scholarship the following semester."

Aside from Lao, others who did not make it to the lineup were PBL slam dunk champion Cyrus Baguio, center Mel Latoreno and sophomore Kenneth Co.

Aside from poor grades, Del Rosario, author of UST's four-peat from 1993-96 and a Mobiline assistant coach, also said that Lao and company failed to attend the Tigers' regular practices due to their commitment with their PBL teams.

"The UAAP board must do something regarding this problem. Some PBL teams prevent players from joining their school teams in some tournaments," Del Rosario told sportswriters during the formal launching of the UAAP last July 9. "It's high time to teach some players lessons."

With a depleted lineup, UST opened its campaign

on the wrong foot, losing to FEU, 66-59, in the opener last Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Lao said Del Rosario's accusation is unfair. "I can bear not playing my final year for UST. But I can't bear it when my parents are no longer talking to me upon reading the reasons for my non-inclusion," Lao said. "No reason was given for my failure to enrol this semester. I thought the school is concerned with my education."

Without Lao and company, UST isn't ranked among the favorites in the 64th UAAP basketball season. The absence of Lao and Latoreno weaken UST's inside game, while Baguio is known as the Tigers take-charge guy after finishing ninth overall in the MVP race last year.

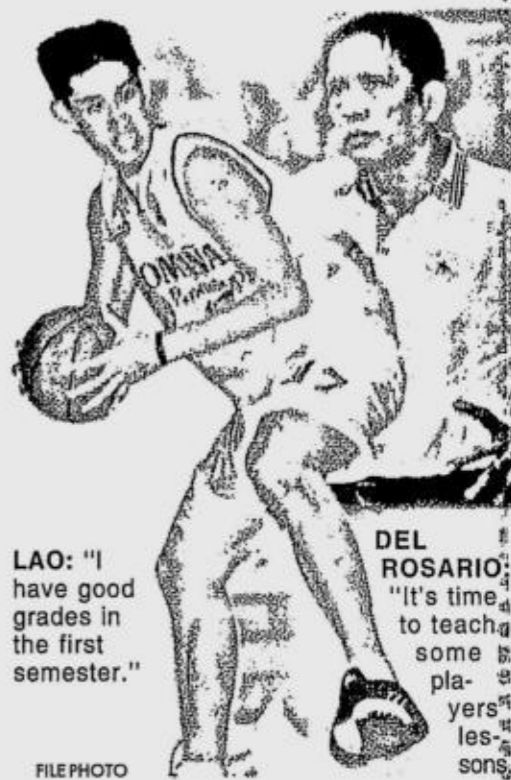
Lao and Latoreno play for Montaña Jewels, while Baguio suits up for Happee Toothpaste in the PBL wars. Lao is in his fifth and final year as a Tiger.

Meanwhile, there'll be little fanfare as the UAAP women's basketball tournament unfurls today at the flood-prone UST Gym in Sampaloc.

Ateneo challenges Adamson in the 8 a.m. opener, followed by the FEU-UE tussle at 9:30 a.m. Newly crowned Fr. Martin's Cup titleholder UP battles UST at 11 a.m.

Unlike men's basketball, women basketball is wanting in attention. But just like in the past, the lady dribblers will delight their fans with their never-say-die attitude.

Action also resumes in the junior division with UE facing NU at 1:30 p.m. Adamson tackles UP at 3 p.m.



LAO: "I have good grades in the first semester."

DEL ROSARIO: "It's time to teach some players lessons."

FILE PHOTO



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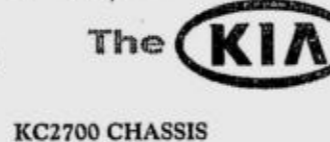
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

WPD officer caught driving hot BPI car

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE CENTRAL Police District has arrested a Manila policeman and a member of the Bahala na Gang (BNG) who were caught in a stolen car in Quezon City.

SPO1 Fernando N. Mamaril, 46, of the Western Police District Station 11, and BNG member Ramil N. Florentino, 31, of Sitio Payong in Barangay Matan-dang

Old Balara, Quezon City, were caught while they were driving a stolen Nissan Sentra Saturday, according to the CPD director, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor.

The white Nissan Sentra is owned by the Bank of the Philippine Islands, said SPO4 Eduardo Dagnalan, of the CPD anti-carnapping (Ancar) task force.

The two men are also suspected of being involved in a gang that specializes in illegal drugs and gunrunning.

Ironically, Mamaril is assigned to WPD Station 11's drug enforcement unit, Dagnalan added.

Besides the stolen car, police also confiscated from the suspects a cal. .38 revolver, a cal. 9 mm., and a cal. .45 pistol, plus a car plate (DFS-542), police uniform and several lock picks, Tor said.

Tor said Ancar agents caught the two men around 11 a.m. in Vista Real in WPD/A18

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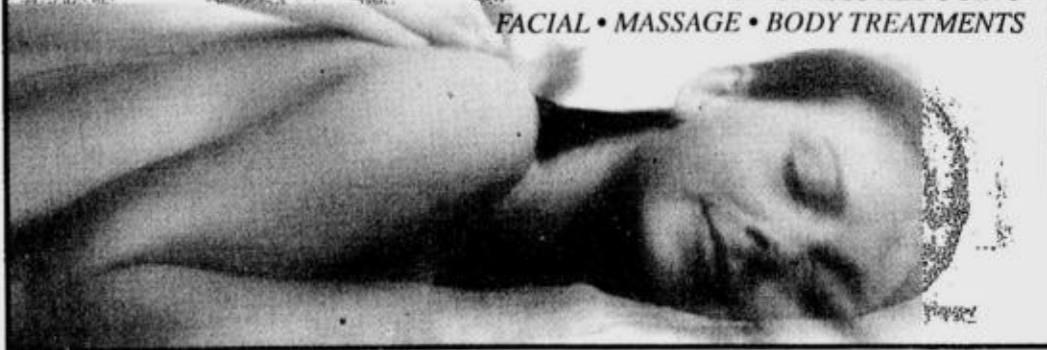
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1894 series of 2001

Lacson: Berroya behind charges in 'open letter'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday blamed Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya for the series of articles by INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo about Lacson's alleged involvement in human rights violations when he was still a police lieutenant in the defunct Metrocom Intelligence Security Group.

Lacson, former head of the Philippine National Police, said Berroya was also behind a white paper released "more than a couple of years ago" detailing exactly the same charges against him.

Lacson said the white paper came

out when he was still PNP director general while Berroya had just been released from jail following his acquittal of the kidnapping of Taiwanese Jack Chou.

Berroya until recently was intelligence chief of the PNP. He has been reassigned to Central Luzon.

Tulfo last week published in his "On Target" column a two-part "open letter" in which he accused Lacson of involvement in summary executions when he was still with the MISG.

Tulfo was then a police reporter and was covering Lacson.

Among Tulfo's charges were that Lacson wore an expensive Patek Philippe

watch allegedly taken from a kidnapper killed by Lacson's subordinates, and that Lacson had a hand in the death of his wife's first husband.

"I smell the handiwork of Berroya," Lacson, apparently irritated and speaking in Tagalog, yesterday told Senate reporters. "I've read the same (charges) more than a couple of years ago in a white paper. I don't want to discuss these anymore."

"If I take them up point by point," Lacson said, referring to the charges in Tulfo's column, "they (his accusers) will only answer back. There will be no end to this issue."

Lacson has always dismissed allegations by his detractors, the latest of whom are Angelo Mawanay, an alleged civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, and Col. Victor Corpus of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Corpus had called Lacson a threat to national security. Lacson said: "I do not want to react anymore to these charges. I'll just concentrate on my job as senator."

Lacson distributed white cotton shirts to Senate reporters following yesterday's news conference. A photo

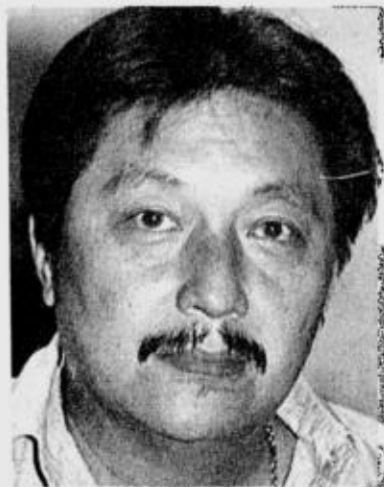


LACSON

of him smiling is printed on the shirt, along with the words "Ako na naman (Me again)?"

Lacson said he is not even considering filing libel charges against his detractors.

"I just hope everything will come to pass," he said. "God will take care of



BERROYA

them. I hope they will stop what they are doing."

The neophyte senator said he would rather concentrate on legislation, his new responsibility.

"Let them take their issues to the proper court," he said. "I would rather focus on my job."

Cop guns down 2 rob suspects

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE ODDS were just right for PO1 Eleuterio Frias of the Central Police District. He fought off three armed robbers, killing two of them and wounding the third, in a firefight in a Caloocan subdivision yesterday morning, police said.

Frias, assigned to CPD Station 10, emerged unscathed from the gunbattle, said Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, the Caloocan police chief.

Frias was escorting a La Suerte Cigar delivery van (NPZ-443) driven by his cousin, Doming Frias, when the three men, on board a white Honda motorcycle (TL-6637) and a private jeep, blocked the van at the corner of Lawaan and Malantin streets in Amparo Subdivision about 10:30 a.m., Mantele said.

The suspects were not aware that a Quezon City police officer was riding shotgun in the van, Mantele added.

When Frias and his cousin refused to alight from the van, one of the suspects shot Frias but missed. The policeman drew his service firearm, took cover, and engaged the robbers in a furious exchange.

Stunned residents and bystanders immediately called police to report the shootout.

The suspects tried to flush out Frias from behind the van, but the policeman relentlessly fired his gun and forced them to flee instead, police said.

Frias chased and shot and killed two of the suspects when he caught up with them a few meters from the van. He also managed to shoot the third man in the chest and arm, but the man managed to flee with an Uzi submachine gun and a .45-caliber pistol.

Police recovered another .45-caliber pistol at the shootout scene.

Mantele said the dead suspects were in their early 30s.

Disabled man kills buddy

A DISABLED man on Sunday allegedly stabbed dead his drinking buddy who challenged him to a duel in Valenzuela City.

Jaime Abad, 58, of Gumamela Duplex in Barangay Gen. T. de Leon, Valenzuela, blew his top for no apparent reason and began cursing Longakit "Pily" Lucresio, 38, while they were drinking on Sampaguita Street in Barangay Marulas, said Senior Supt. Nemesio Neron, Valenzuela Police chief.

Witness David Aruelo told police that Lucresio, a resident of Yellow Bell Street, Barangay Potrero, Malabon, was quiet even while Abad was goading him to a fight.

Aruelo said Lucresio left without saying a word. He returned a few minutes later with a fan knife and stabbed Abad repeatedly.

Abad died on the way to the Fatima Medical Center. Police were looking for Lucresio.

Christian V. Esguerra

Was I unfair in including Ping's wife?

"MON, why did you include Ping's wife in your quarrel with him?" a friend asked me yesterday. "That was unfair of you. Wives and children should be excluded from men's fights."

He was referring to the second of a two-part article about Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police and the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF). That article, which appeared in this space last Saturday, was in the form of an open letter to Ping Lacson.

My friend was referring to that part wherein I said that Ms Alice Lacson used to be the wife of a detainee of the defunct Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG). Ping Lacson was one of the officers at the MISG.

Alice, a commercial model, was Ms Gil when Ping met her in 1974. Her husband was Reggie Gil, son of a prominent lawyer at the time. Reggie's father defended American tobacco tycoon Harry Stonehill, who was charged with tax evasion by the government in the early 1960s. The American was eventually deported.

Reggie Gil was a problem child. He had frequent brushes with the law. But he never went to jail before martial law because of his father's influence.

During martial law, however, the influence of Reggie's father waned. Reggie was arrested for various offenses. The MISG, the most dreaded military unit during martial law, took Reggie into custody.

During one of Alice's visits to her husband, Ping Lacson, a handsome,

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



dashing officer who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) three years earlier, saw her.

Lacson followed Alice after she came out of the MISG headquarters inside Camp Crame. My sources said he invited her to a nearby restaurant.

Not long after, Ping and Alice were having an affair. The husband didn't have any idea what was going on right under his very nose. Alice kept on visiting him, but this time she had a different reason—to have a tryst with her lover boy.

Ping and Alice met at a "safehouse" provided by Sgt. Norie Cruz, one of the oldtimers at the MISG. Cruz allegedly collected *tong* from Metro Manila's gambling lords at the time.

My sources said that Reggie Gil was detained for one year at the MISG jail and another jail, after which he was released.

A few months after he came out of jail, Reggie was run over by a truck on his way to his car. The truck driver deliberately ran over him, according to my sources.

Former MISG members told this writer they were surprised to know that Lacson was already living with Alice. Their union has given them two children, one of whom entered the PMA but was kicked out. Lacson

has adopted Alice's child by Reggie.

Why did I include Alice in my supposed quarrel with Ping Lacson?

It's not in my nature to engage in *tsismis*, although what you've read above may look and sound like one.

I believe that the story about Ping and Alice must be told to give you an insight into the character of the man who is adored by millions. Those millions of Filipinos have sent him to the Senate.

Ping Lacson, the savior of many kidnap victims, has his dark side. Very dark. If you hear more about his dark side, you'll puke.

Read more about him in this space in the coming days.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has shown that she could be decisive when the situation called for it when she ordered a crackdown against supporters and sympathizers of the Abu Sayyaf.

The bandit group now realizes that it doesn't pay to mock the government which can summon all the resources at its command. As they say you'll lose when you fight city hall.

Bereft of moral and material support, the Abu Sayyaf will wither on the vine, so to speak. Its days are numbered.

As Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, military spokesman, put it: "We're draining the pond that supports the terrorist fish."

Well said, General.

Extreme situations call for extreme measures.

If the government really wants to save the lives of the hostages, two of whom are American missionaries (the third American has reportedly been executed

by the kidnappers), it should undertake unorthodox measures.

It can, for example, have a vigilante group or the military's "lost command" abduct close relatives of the kidnappers. By now, I suppose, the relatives of Abu Sayyaf leaders are known.

The relatives—wives, children, brothers, sisters, parents, uncles, aunts—of the kidnappers could become bargaining chips.

If the kidnappers continued to kill their hostages, the vigilante group or the "lost command" could do the same to their kin.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. That's the language those Moros understand.

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine, a prominent resident of Zamboanga City, did the unthinkable to the kidnappers of his brother-in-law.

The brother-in-law was kidnapped by Moro bandits and taken to Tonkil, an island in Sulu. They demanded ransom from my friend.

Instead of giving in to the kidnappers' demand, my friend went to the Southern Command, told its leaders that he would shoulder the cost of the operations against the kidnappers. This included the rewards of the soldiers.

The soldiers raided Tonkil and killed all the kidnappers. My friend's brother-in-law was released unharmed.

Moral of the story? If the relatives of kidnap victims would cooperate with the government, chances are the victims would be saved and the kidnappers arrested or killed.

Trickster nabbed in Loi's house

SEN. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito almost fell victim to a man who allegedly posed as a member of the staff of Quezon City Rep. Reynaldo Calalay and tried to solicit donation from the former first lady for a fictitious group.

The suspect was identified as Demetrio Lorenzana, 32, a physical therapist from Barangay Real in Calamba, Laguna.

Lorenzana was arrested in the Ejercito residence in Greenhills, San Juan, but was released later for "humanitarian reasons" after Ejercito, the wife of jailed President Joseph Estrada, took pity on him, according to Chief Insp. Tomasito Clet, chief of the San Juan police Criminal Investigation Division.

Police said Lorenzana called up the Ejercito residence at No. 1 Polk Street in North Greenhills around 11 a.m. on Sunday. He spoke to Nenette Tanyag, 42, Ejercito's chief of operations, about soliciting donations for a medical mission of a foundation.

Chief Inspector Clet said police had to release Lorenzana on the orders of Ejercito, who decided not to press charges against him. Agnes E. Donato

WPD...

(From page A17)

Barangay Batasan Hills.

A Vista Real security guard called up police after he saw the white Sentra, which had no license plates, enter the subdivision.

The guard said Mamaril "acted suspiciously" and identified himself as a Manila policeman.

Anear agents responded and waited for the two men to go out of the subdivision. After an hour, the two men did drive out of Vista Real.

Policemen blocked the Nissan Sentra's path and told the two men to surrender. A brief scuffle ensued after the two men also drew handguns.

Anear agents overpowered the two men and brought them to the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal at Sikatuna Village in Quezon City.

The CPD also conducted follow-up operations on Sunday morning and confiscated a 750-cc Yamaha big bike in Florentino's home. Anear agents are still trying to find out if the motorcycle was also stolen, Tor said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 17, 2001
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 2:1-15
Gospel: Mt 11:20-24

Jesus began to denounce the cities in which he had performed most of his miracles, because the people there did not change their ways. "Alas for you Chorazin and Bethsaida! If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I assure you, for Tyre and Sidon it will be more bearable on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead! For if the miracles which were performed in you had taken place in Sodom, it would still be there today! But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Commentary

Jesus' message was focused on the proclamation of the kingdom of God and his mission was to invite the people of Israel to be part of this new reality. Israel was invited to a new way of thinking in order to assert its dignity and messianic mission as God's people: to be the light of the Gentiles. Through the prophets it had been prepared for this task. The three cities mentioned in the reading were obviously not interested in assuming this mission, although they had witnessed the signs of the new reality. Matthew makes clear, in a disturbing way, that Jesus' message is by no means without obligation, especially for God's chosen People. Jesus warns of the severe consequences from disregarding his call to conversion.

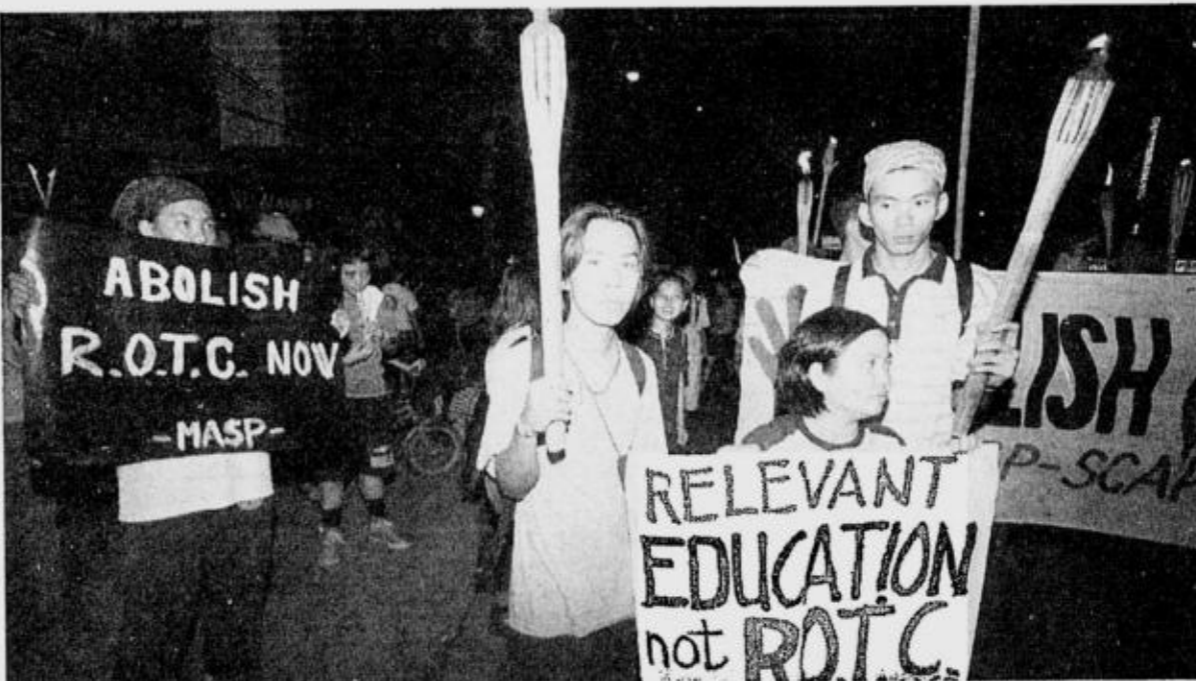
Father, you have chosen us to be the light of the world. Grant that we may be sensitive to our mission to be your instruments of peace.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Nocturnity—From the narration of the eyewitness, it appeared that appellant took advantage of the dark for a sudden and successful attack. If not for the kerosene torch, the eyewitness could not have noticed appellant's presence. When they saw the appellant, he was already in an attacking position. The attack was sudden and swift. From appellant's posture, it could also be deduced that he deliberately or consciously adopted the means of execution. It was not by accident or provocation that he attacked the victim. He was there waiting in ambush for the said victim. It is a settled rule that nocturnity may not be taken as an aggravating circumstance separate and independent of treachery. The reason for this rule is that nighttime forms part of the peculiar treacherous means and manner adopted to insure the execution of the crime. Inasmuch as nighttime was adopted by appellant to facilitate the means of execution of the crime, it is absorbed by the qualifying aggravating circumstance of treachery. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, People v. Cirilo, G.R. No. 134245, December 1, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA



ABOLITION PARADE

Students of the Far Eastern University hold a torch parade on the Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge as part of their call for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program. The Sunday night protest followed another boycott of the training program and the setting up of human barricades on several campuses.

ROGER MARGALLO

ROTC con man charged with extortion

BY AGNES E. DONATO

CHARGES of robbery-extortion were filed yesterday against a jobless man who allegedly extorted P750 each from three students of the Rizal Technological University in exchange for a passing grade or an exemption from the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program.

RTU president Jose Macaballug also ordered the investigation of the operation of suspect Lauro Dulawan,

23, in the school and vowed that school insiders found involved in the corrupt practices in the ROTC would be punished.

As of yesterday afternoon, Dulawan had yet to post the P100,000 bail set for his temporary release, said Supt. John Sosito, Pasig City police chief. Dulawan was still detained at the Pasig police station.

Sosito said Dulawan insisted on waiting for his lawyer before giving any statement to the authorities.

Macaballug admitted he learned about the alleged illegal transactions in the school only from newspaper reports.

"We would not let matters like this happen in this school," said Macaballug.

He said Dulawan, who was arrested by the Pasig City police during an entrapment operation on Friday, was not a personnel of the state university.

Dulawan was arrested after receiving marked money from RTU students Lemor Patulot, 17, Rodivir Magana, 21, and Joseph Magistrado, 17.

2 Palawan-bound drug suspects caught

BY JEROME ANING

WESTERN Police District agents last week seized about 300 grams of shabu from two Palawan-bound suspected drug couriers they arrested at the Manila North Harbor.

The suspects, presented to newsmen by Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday, were identified as Bocary Daud, 25, married and a resident of the Mohagindes Muslim compound along Roxas Boulevard in Baclaran, Parañaque City; and Cairodan Sadie, 23, single, of the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila.

Supt. Napoleon Taas, WPD-Special Operations Group commander, said an informant tipped his office about the two men's trip to Puerto Princesa City, late Friday afternoon.

The informant said the suspects were waiting to receive a package of illegal drugs from their contacts at the pier.

A seven-man SOG team led by Taas' deputy, Chief Insp. Arturo Paglinawan Jr., went to Pier 4 at the North Harbor at 5:45 p.m. Friday. The informant later pointed to the suspects, who were carrying travelling bags.

Paglinawan said they monitored the two men's movements for about an hour to see if the contacts would appear. The suspects suddenly went out of the pier gate, but only to walk to the concrete wall to urinate.

The policemen arrested the two men initially for violation of a city ordinance prohibiting urination in public places.

The policemen claimed that they found in Daud's bag three small plastic packets each containing 100 grams of shabu. Also found were two Palawan-way tickets from Abotit Shipping Lines, the policemen said.

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LORES

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CINEMA-1	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP

Who's ...
(From page A20)

More on the Larusso hit
I WAS deluged by e-mail after I printed my literal translation of Larusso's smash hit "On Ne S'aime Plus Jamais." As promised, I am now sharing with you my other interpretation of the song that can be sung to the beat of the original French version. It's up to you to make your own improvisations when you sing it. I'd like to reiterate that what I printed in my previous column was the literal translation. This one is more of an English version. It's not a word-for-word translation but the essence of the song remains intact. Let's sing our hearts out till they stop bleeding, d'accord? C'est l'amour!

On Ne S'aime Plus Jamais
We don't love each other anymore
No ifs and buts
It's the end of our keeping score
Now have the guts
To say you are not worth fighting for
Just let me walk out through the door

I don't love you the same way anymore
I'm so sorry
But I'm no longer happy
Set me free
No use to keep on blaming me
Just kiss me and let me be

Refrain: I don't love you the same way anymore
I'm not yours

There are no more words left to say
We lost our way
No reason for us to stay
This is it
The love we had has reached its final day
We used to say come what may

We have stopped believing in us
Love's gone to trash
We cannot run for cover
It's over! It's over!
Time for a new him and a new her
Love can only get better and sweeter

I will cherish your smile
Not just for awhile
I will cherish your smile
And I will go and sigh
We don't love each other anymore

We don't love each other anymore
It's over, it's over
It's over, over, over
Move over.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Filipino actors make their mark in New York

AFTER 12 years, the Fil-American Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City has made a name for itself as "one of the most important incubators of Asian American theater in the country" (A-Magazine) and "One of New York's emerging theaters to watch" (New York Times).

True enough, its productions have won plaudits, and its actors have gotten glowing reviews and special recognition. Topping the list is **Ching Valdez-Aran**. She moved to New York from the Philippines in 1967 and first found work as a dancer before she decided to concentrate on acting.

However, there were few roles for Asian Women in those days, so Ching had to act in "color-blind" productions. She often had to work without pay, but the experience she got was invaluable.

When Ma-Yi and the National Asian-American Theater Company became active, therefore, Ching was more than ready to play lead roles in their productions. She has done six plays for Ma-Yi, including "Mother Courage," "Middle Finger," "Flipzoids" and "The Watcher." Her biggest triumph was in "Flipzoids," where she won an Obie Award for her performance.

Aside from Ma-Yi, Ching has also acted on Broadway in "The

Wild Party," "Romeo and Juliet," "As You Like It," and "Macbeth" (as Lady Macbeth opposite F. Murray Abraham).

Off-Broadway groups Ching has acted for include Mabou Mines, Pan-Asia Repertory, New Federal Theater, The Foundry and La Mama. At the Public Theater, she has just appeared in "The Dogeaters," for which she got a **Lucille Lortelle** nomination for Best Featured Actress.

Ching has also been very active in regional theater, with performances at Yale Repertory, Actor's Theater of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse, Arena Stage and La Jolla Playhouse. In fact, she's one of the busiest stage actors in New York. Last year alone, she performed on Broadway in "The Wild Party," in Central Park in "Julius Caesar," in NAATCO's "The House of Bernard Alba," and in Ma-Yi's "Middle Finger" and "The Watcher!"

For his part, **Anthony Ruivivar** has worked with the Public Theater and the Manhattan Theater Club, and is a member of Circle East (formerly Circle Rep). His recent plays include "The Watcher," "When Cuba Opens Up" and "Balm in Gilead."

His film credits: "High and Art" with **Ally Sheedy**, "Starship Troop-

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

ers," "In and Out," "Race the Sun," "Simply Irresistible" and "White Fang 2." And he's in three movies that have yet to be released: "Swimming," "Saturn" and "Harvest."

Anthony is also active on television. He has appeared in "Law and Order" and in "All My Children." Currently, he plays Carlos Nieto in NBC's award-winning show, "Third Watch," which has garnered him a Best Asian American Actor in a Drama Series nomination.

As you can see, Ching Valdez-Aran and Anthony Ruivivar have made their mark on the New York stage, as well as on TV and film. They've competed against the best talents from many countries, and have stood out. It's taken a lot of work and determination, but this has only made success even more meaningful for these outstanding Fil-American theater talents.

Longest film titles

NO, the longest film title is not "Dr. Strangelove, Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb"

(13 words). Neither is it "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mom's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad" (15 words).

The five longest film titles are:

1. "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade" (1966). (25 words)

2. "Why Do I Believe You When You Tell Me That You Love Me, When I Know You've Been a Liar All Your Life?" (1983). (23 words)

3. "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines: Or, How I Flew from London to Paris in 25 Hours and 11 minutes." (1965). (21 words)

4. "Cafeteria or How Are You Going to Keep Her Down on the Farm After She's Seen Paris Twice." (1973). (18 words)

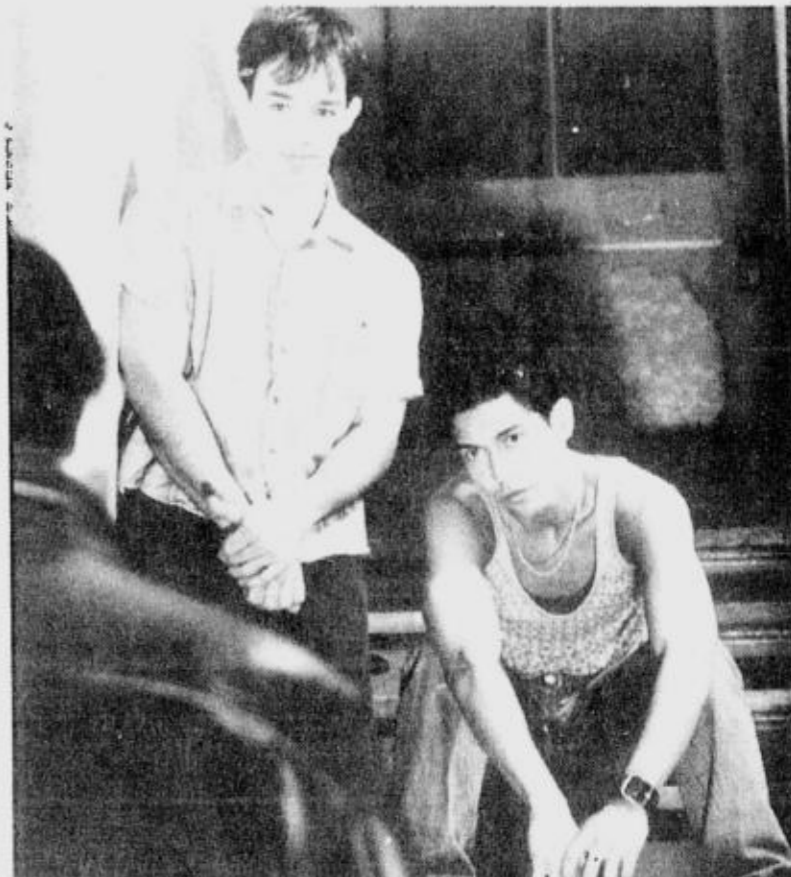
5. "The Saga of the Viking Women and Their Voyage to the Waters of the Great Sea Serpent" (1957). (17 words)

Charades, anyone?

TV notes

NATIONAL Geographic Channel presents extraordinary adventures during the rainy season in the new weekly program, "Next Wave," which airs every Wednesday, 9 p.m. starting July 25. The series will end Oct. 17.

Meanwhile, "Adventure One"



ANTHONY Ruivivar (right) with Orlando Pabotoy in "The Watcher."

covers a range of active outdoor adventure, from classic National Geographic Channel explorers to everyday adventurers.

On Star TV, **Rob Lowe** fights for

his sanity in the thriller, "Living in Peril" which also stars **James Belushi** and **Dean Cain**. It airs July 19, 2:30 a.m. and 11 p.m., with replays on July 29 and 31.

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Who's for divorce, who's not

THE MORTALITY rate of show biz marriages is on an all-time high. The same goes for the immorality rate, huh?

Mortality, immorality. They rhyme. Considering such a scenario, you would think that stars would be in favor of the pending

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne
Carvajal

divorce bill.

Not exactly. See what some celebrities have to



say about the issue:

Cesar Montano: "I'm against the idea

of divorce. It will just simply give or fortify reasons for couples to separate. *Konting problema lang mai-isipang nang mag-give up and file for divorce. The easy way out. I strongly believe what the Bible says that what God has put together no man should*



MONTANO



BONNEVIE

put asunder." **Dina Bonnevie:** "I'm for divorce but it must have stringent rules. It should only be resorted to if there's domestic violence, infidelity, sterility, impotence, insanity, addiction or sexually-transmitted disease. Divorce ought to be just a last resort."

Diether Ocampo: "I'm anti-divorce. I think that if I marry someone she would be the one I want to be with till my last breath."

Geneva Cruz: "I'm pro-divorce but it does not mean I want to experience it again. It just gives us a chance to be free and start over when we are already physically or emotionally abused. It will lessen infidelity. Better to break up than to stay in a marriage for the sake of appearances."

WHO'S/ A19



Sexy Date Movie Begins Tomorrow!

Introducing, the "Tomcats," tropa ng tree-wheeling, sex-obsessed guys, na walang inatupag kung hindi maka-iskor at magbilang ng nobya.

Nagpustahan ang barkada - sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natirirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seeductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Ngunit di niya inaasahan na mainlab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, maglalaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. Rated R.

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS JULY 18 (Wed.)

MTRCB RATING: **PG-13** Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"

RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE

IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY... YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel *Woe to Live On*.

ONE SHIP IS ABOUT TO IGNITE A GLOBAL WAR TOMORROW!



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FINAL FANTASY - P 13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	DRIVEN - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
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TUESDAY,
JULY 17, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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4% economic growth seen in 2nd half

THE ECONOMY should grow 4 percent in the second half of this year, enabling the government to meet its full-year target of a 3.3-3.8 percent expansion, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday.

Growth in the services and farm sectors, as well as slim gains in manufacturing, should lead to gross domestic product (GDP) growth of "about 4 percent" for the six months to December compared with the second half of last year, he said in a television interview.

"Our projections are really based on a significant pick-up in the second semester of this year."

GDP grew 4 percent last year and by 2.5 percent in the three months to March. Canlas estimated last week the economy grew by between 2.8 and 3 percent in the three months to June.

A 4-percent expansion in the second half would allow the government to hit the lower end of its full year growth target.

"We're seeing continuous growth in the services, particularly

telecommunications, retailing and wholesaling. Agriculture, I think, will emerge consistent with the forecast we made," Canlas said.

"We expect some recovery in construction and also some slight gains in manufacturing," he added.

Canlas said he did not expect the emerging debt crisis in Argentina to affect the Philippines adversely, specially the government's fiscal deficit target.

"So far within the six months of the year, we have been successful in keeping the actual budget deficit

below the programmed amount," he said, without giving details.

The deficit stood at P58.33 billion in the five months to May, below the targeted level of P61.7 billion for the period.

Meantime, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it has no plans to raise its key overnight rates to help the peso, which fell to a six-month low of 53.56 to the dollar in early trade yesterday.

"No," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters when asked if the central bank

planned to raise its overnight rates to counter the weakness of the peso.

The bank's overnight borrowing rate is currently at 9 percent and its overnight lending rate at 11.25 percent.

Buenaventura also told Reuters by phone the central bank did not intervene in the local foreign exchange market yesterday. He said the peso tracked the weakness of other regional currencies.

Buenaventura added that he saw the peso recovering to 50 per dollar by year's end assuming that the US economy recovers quickly and the

peace and order situation in the country is resolved soon.

"We are still saying it will be 50 by yearend. Of course, that is on the assumption that the US economy will recover and we are also assuming that we will solve our peace and order problem. I don't think this is permanent, the peace and order problem," Buenaventura said in an interview with local dzMM radio.

He added analysts from banks and fund managers expect an improvement in the dollar/peso on a six-to 12-month basis. **AFP, Reuters**

Budget gap target remains at P145B

THE BUDGET deficit target for 2001 still remains at P145 billion.

"We are sticking to the P145-billion deficit target. At worst, we may exceed the target by P10 billion," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

He described as "outrageous" reports that a higher deficit of P180 billion was being considered by the Aquino administration.

Camacho said the inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council had decided to stick to the P145-billion deficit target even as it brought down the full-year collection target of the BIR by P20 billion to P388 billion.

Tax earnings fell short of target by P12.6 billion in the first five months of the year but Camacho noted that the January-May level was 7.8 percent higher compared to the BIR collection last year.

The total revenue target this year was revised to P558.2 billion or P10 billion lower than the original target, the finance chief said.

He said items like non-tax earnings as well as privatization proceeds should help offset the BIR's lower take. The sale of the government's remaining 10-percent stake in Meralco should also bring privatization revenue up to P10 billion, he said.

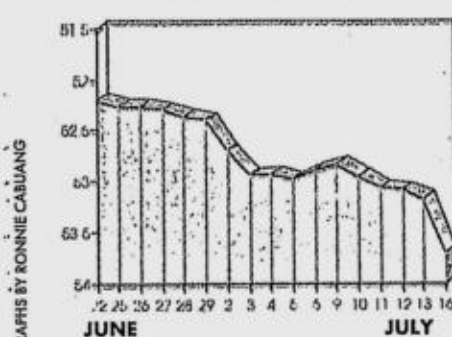
Earnings from government fees were also expected to hit P2 billion more this year to P21 billion while income of the Bureau of Treasury was seen to exceed the target by P5 billion at P25 billion.

Camacho said the government had also identified "promising real estate assets" to sell even if the market remained in a slump. It doesn't matter, we need the money," he noted.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 53.71 = \$

As of 5 p.m.,
July 16, 2001

Y 124.88 = \$1

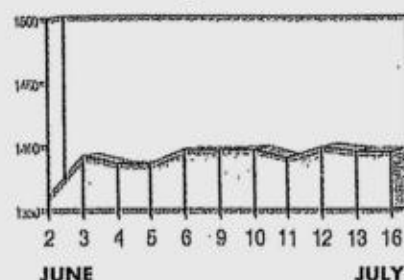
The US dollar was trading
at 124.08 as of 5 p.m.,
July 16, 2001

GOLD: \$267.60/268.10

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 16, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end mixed



SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with the strong buying interest in food and beverage concern San Miguel slightly boosting the market's main index, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 1.31 points to 1397.61 after declining 3.12 points Friday to 1396.30.

The broader All Shares Index gained 2.23 points to 799.63 after advancing 3.26 points to 797.40 Friday.

Volume fell to 234 million shares but value rose to P377 million compared with 514 shares worth P207 million traded on Friday.

However, decliners outnumbered gainers 40 to 30, as worries over the weakening peso and lingering security and economic concerns continue to dampen investor interest. There were 35 issues unchanged. **AP**

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MRT-3: A railroaded deal?

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

(Second of three parts)

THIS month, the Macapagal administration will have to search its meager pockets for about P1.99 billion to pay the creditors of Metro Rail Transit Corp. It was only on Feb. 8—just 18 days after President Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath—that the government shelved out the first P1.99 billion to cover for Metro Rail Transit's debts.

Ms Macapagal's fiscal managers were as surprised as their predecessors at the obligations that they must pay in behalf of the Metro Rail consortium. The consortium, led by Fil-Estate Management Inc., consists of Ayala Land Inc., Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Greenfield Development Corp., Ramcar Inc., Allante Realty and Development Inc. and DBH Inc.

This "sovereign burden" actually began a year ago

and would continue until Metro Rail Transit could fill its coaches with enough passengers so it could pay its way out of its debts.

While many have grown to appreciate using the Metro Rail system or MRT-3 for the comfort and speed it brings, still more continue to ignore it for reason like out-of-the-way stations and poor access to trains.

"MRT-3 did not turn out to be what the public had expected, and this is affecting ridership. Maybe the government should have made sure first that the quality of the transport system was good before it agreed to throw in all those guarantees," a former finance secretary, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER.

Guaranteed profit

Under the 25-year build-lease-transfer agreement between Metro Rail Transit and the Ramos administration, the government will guarantee a 15-percent return on the Metro Rail consortium's \$190-million investment. The deal committed the government into ensuring a private group's profitability.

Persons familiar with the situation said MRT-3 was a build-operate-transfer project that became a BLT deal at the last minute. This made billions worth of difference. Had MRT-3 been carried out on a BOT arrangement, Metro Rail Transit—not the government—would shoulder losses that might arise. It would have been the private group's responsibility to make the railway profitable.

Apart from agreeing to guarantee a 15-percent return-on-investment, the Ramos administration also allowed Metro Rail Transit to use passenger volume as a measure of profitability. For the consortium to break even, its railway must move 440,000 passengers a day, with each paying an average P34. As of today, only 250,000 passengers use the transport system daily and they pay about P12 each. The government—and, ultimately, the taxpayer—is, in effect, paying for the fare of 210,000 people who don't even use the Metro Rail coaches when going to and returning from work or wherever it is they are going.

Debt burden

Under its contract with the Metro Rail Transit consortium, the government will lease MRT-3 for 25 years, upon which the railway system will become state property.

A former finance undersecretary, who spoke on condition of anonymity, says the rent is composed of two parts. There is an "equity portion" that the government must pay monthly to Fil-Estate and all the other members of the consortium that built MRT-3 and a "debt-servicing component" that goes to the creditors.

To finance the construction of its railway system, Metro Rail Transit borrowed around \$646 million from Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Japan Export-Import Bank, Postal Bank of the Czech Republic, Czech Export Credit Agency and a group of local banks.

The Department of Transportation and Communications is supposed to pay a monthly rent to Metro

Rail Transit out of the railway's earnings. Since there aren't enough passengers, however, the railway isn't making enough money to pay for itself. So the government—and, ultimately, the taxpayer—is left footing the bill.

Questions

The Commission on Audit is looking into this apparently onerous deal. "The commission is asking why the government has to pay the debts of a private company," one finance official told the INQUIRER.

Among the projects that carry government guarantees, only Metro Rail Transit has been able to clinch a guarantee on its earnings.

Still, it may be premature to judge the Ramos administration.

"It is difficult to judge because the Ramos administration worked under a different condition," the finance official stressed. "But it is really rare to hear about a government trying to guarantee the earnings of a private company when earnings—or losses, for that matter—are risks that the proponent must take."

The Metro Rail consortium has asked the government to allow it to build a 5-kilometer extension of its railway from North EDSA to Monumento to improve its passenger load. The extension will link up MRT-3 with the Light Rail Transit system that runs from Baclaran to Monumento using the western portion of Metro Manila.

The problem with this proposal, however, is that the consortium wants the government to provide the same guarantees for the 5-kilometer extension as it did for the existing system.

Efforts to change

There were efforts by the Department of Finance under Jose Pardo to bring down Metro Rail Transit's guaranteed return-on-investments from 15 to 10 percent and even restructure the entire deal. These plans, however, were derailed by a political crisis that forced Pardo's boss, then President Joseph Estrada, to step down.

Finance undersecretaries who were holdovers from Pardo's tenure tried to push for a renegotiation of the MRT-3 deal. They believed that with the audit commission coming into the picture, there was a chance to change the whole thing into a build-transfer-own deal. Transferring ownership of MRT-3 to the state would make it easier for the government to find the budget to pay Metro Rail Transit's creditors.

A finance official privy to this matter said the private groups were willing to sell MRT-3 to the government. "I even thought they were willing to take a cut in the minimum from 15 percent to something lower. Back then, we were planning to pay them for their unrecovered equity and ROE with government securities and it seems they were open to the arrangement," he said.

Changes initiated by the Macapagal administration, however, have again waylaid these efforts.

For now, the government is trying to estimate the extent of the damage that former President Ramos' so-called legacies have left behind.

(To be continued)

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Monday, July 16, 2001)				CLOSE	VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW			
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES						
BANKS						
Bank of the Phil. Islands	71	72.5	70.5	71	279,100	
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	38	36	36	51,000	
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	207	204	205	43,940	
Philippine National Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	9,800	
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	16,500	
FINANCIAL SERVICE						
First Metro Invest. Corp.	255	255	255	255	510	
Manulife Financial Corp.	1430	1435	1430	1435	6,210	
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1255	1260	1255	1260	17,740	
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL						
COMMUNICATION						
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40	40	40	1,000	
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	800,000	
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	270	
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.037	0.037	5,000,000	
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	49,600,000	
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4	4	3.7	3.9	16,000	
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000	
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	695	695	690	690	37,590	
Intanage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000	
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.033	0.034	12,200,000	
POWER & ENERGY						
Manila Electric Co. A	38	38	37.5	37.5	4,800	
Manila Electric Co. B	52.5	52.5	51	51	311,300	
Petron Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.98	1,593,000	
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	170,000	
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES						
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	16,000	
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.32	2.32	2.28	2.3	4,018,000	
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	1,220,000	
William, Gothong & Aboliz	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	2,000	
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS						
Republic Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	180,000	
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	204,000	
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO						
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.8	2,774,000	
Julibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	202,600	
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27	27	26.5	27	107,100	
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	60,000	
RFM Corp.	2.24	2.55	2.24	2.5	14,528,000	
San Miguel Corp. A	43	44	43	43.5	75,900	
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	54.5	50.5	53.5	665,200	
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	20,000	
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000	
HOLDING FIRMS						
Abacus Con Res & Hdq A	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	20,000	
Ayala Corp.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	794,000	
Aboliz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	787,000	
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11	1,800	
Ajo.net Ltd Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.24	1.12	1.22	2,906,000	
A. Soriano Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	230,000	
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	8,000,000	
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	100,000	
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	400	
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	630,000	
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.78	1.78	3,331,000	
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	800,000	
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000	
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	10,000	
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31.5	33.5	31.5	33	764,000	
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000	
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	160,000	
Gucco Holdings (Phils.)	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,480,000	
House of Investments Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000	
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	12,000	
Ipeople Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	157,000	
Ipeople Inc. B	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	132,000	
Macroasia Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	14,000	
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	110,000	
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	70,000	
Seafrost Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000	
Tandayay Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.5	6.1	6.4	121,000	
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	180,000	
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING						
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000	
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,000	
Musico Corp.	1.94	1.98	1.92	1.92	42,000	
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	110,000	
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	100,000	
Prime Gaming Mgmt. Corp.	12	12	12	12	6,000,000	
Philippine Seven Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	226,000	
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000	
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	21,000	
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE						
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	1,300,000	
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,650,000	
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	220,000	
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000	
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	15,000	
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS						
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	100,000	
Julibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	119,100	
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1,000,000	
RFM Corp.-Pref.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000	
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.022	0.023	0.021	0.022	33,300,000	
PROPERTY						
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	1,783,000	
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	2,000	
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,260,000	
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	670,000	
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,000,000	
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,630,000	
Fillinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.14	636,000	
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.22	2,210,000	
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000	
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	50,000	
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	385,000	
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.62	0.53	0.52	0.53	90,000	
MINING						
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2	2	1.9	1.9	30,000	
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,000	
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.043	0.039	0.039	41,600,000	
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	2,000,000	
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	13,400,000	
Philix Mining Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	210,000	
Philix Mining Corp. B	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	1,980,000	
OIL						
Imperial Res.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	3,000,000	
Pacific	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,300,000	
SHARES						
Banks & Fin Svc	424,600				62,935,820.00	
Comm'l & Ind'l	160,522,060				296,496,560.00	
PRO	9,738,000				14,821,700.00	
Mining	59,222,000				3,306,700.00	
OIL	4,300,000				91,800.00	
GRAND TOTALS:	234,204,660				377,652,580.00	
AVERAGES						
Banks & Fin Svc	565.60				UP 3.07	
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,991.45				UP 6.36	
PRO	526.36				DOWN 4.19	
Mining	1,358.69				DOWN 25.67	
OIL	1.66				UNCH 0.00	
All Shares Index	799.63				UP 2.23	
Composite	1,397.61				UP 1.31	
NO. OF ADVANCES: 30; NO. OF DECLINES: 40; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 2,437						

CURRENCIES

July 16, 2001				
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.169591	1.000000	53.1860
Japan	Yen	0.009363	0.008005	0.4258
United Kingdom	Pound	1.642105	1.404000	74.6731
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150140	0.128370	6.8275
Switzerland	Franc	0.660935	0.565099	30.0554
Canada	Dollar	0.761154	0.650787	34.6128
Singapore	Dollar	0.636858	0.544514	28.9605
Australia	Dollar	0.593400	0.507357	26.9843
Bahrain	Dinar	3.102527	2.652661	141.0844
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311891	0.266667	14.1830
Brunei	Dollar	0.636062	0.543833	28.9243
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025632	0.021915	1.1656
UAE	Dirham	0.318516	0.272331	14.4842
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000770	0.0410
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.855000	45.4740
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.437155	23.2505
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130344	6.8326
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.387982	20.8352
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062135	3.3047
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021195	1.1273
Italy	Lira	0.000517	0.000442	0.0235
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143801	7.5482
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004265	0.2268
Spain	Peseta	0.008011	0.005139	0.2733
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021195	1.1273
Ireland	Punt	1.266738	1.085628	57.7401

\$500-M bond deal with CSFB stays

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO
AND GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said there would be no renegotiation of the terms of a \$500-million bond issue to be handled by Credit Suisse First Boston even with a worsening spread against emerging market borrowings.

"We are not discussing any renegotiation of the terms," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

The financial market had been abuzz with talks that Credit Suisse was trying to re-negotiate the terms, particularly the pricing of the bond issue.

The US-based investment bank has reportedly committed to "firmly underwrite" the \$500 million, 10-year global bond issue of the Philippine government with a yield of 5.1 percentage points over 10-year US Treasury bond rate.

The local capital market is rife with speculation that Credit Suisse First Boston would be compelled to seek for a reworking of the terms of the bond float.

The INQUIRER sent a query through e-mail to Carsten Stoehr, CSFB managing director for Asian debt capital market, asking whether CSFB would renegotiate the terms of the IOU and whether the under-

writing agreement was on a firm or best effort basis.

In his reply, Stoehr declined comment. "Due to the US distribution anticipated on the transaction I am not able to comment. This is a regulatory matter with which we must strictly comply."

Rumors that CSFB would ask the government for an adjustment of the terms of the underwriting agreement were triggered by widespread concern over Argentina's financial turmoil, which has unnerved investors in emerging markets like the Philippines. Shortly after CSFB won the contract, investors were shocked by Argentina's decision to borrow money at the highest interest rate in 5 years.

But a top investment banker said that CSFB should be more transparent in the implementation of the deal and stand by its offer since it obtained the contract through a competitive bidding.

Camacho, however, announced yesterday that the roadshow that was set by the economic team from late July to early August would be postponed to a later date.

This is to give way to another bond issue that the government has scheduled late this month. Camacho said it was awkward to have two banks working on different issues.

STOCK SLUMP

BNP Paribas to close RP unit

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

ANOTHER foreign brokerage house—BNP Paribas Peregrine—is shutting down its Philippine operations following the poor stock market conditions in the country.

Well-placed sources yesterday said the French brokerage house would suspend operations within the next few days due to continuing losses arising from thin market volumes here.

During the first six months of the year, BNP Paribas—which resulted from the merger of BNP and Paribas Securities last year—ranked as the country's 39th top broker in terms of market volume.

In a separate interview yesterday, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said he had yet to receive a formal notice of voluntary suspension from BNP Paribas.

At this point, Garcia said there was nothing the PSE could do to stop the spate of closures among foreign brokerage houses except to hope for a turnaround in the country's business conditions very soon.

"As far as the foreign brokerage houses are concerned, if there is not enough business in the Philip-

pines and if they are not getting the proper returns, they will not find it viable to maintain operations," Garcia said.

But Garcia said the PSE would overcome the current drought in the market and noted that the environment might improve by the fourth quarter of the year.

He said he was banking on the influx of new investments to the country as well as the start of commercial operations of the Malampaya gas field to boost investor confidence. Should economic conditions improve, he said the PSE members, which had earlier decided to suspend their Philippine operations, might resume doing business.

The PSE president also said he hoped that the forthcoming demutualization of the local bourse by Aug. 8 this year would present new opportunities to member-brokers.

Since the start of the year, there were five other foreign brokerage houses, which had folded up due to the dearth of trading opportunities: Securities 2000, UOB Securities, Nomura Securities, Orion Squire Capital Inc. and OCBC Securities. A local brokerage house, All Asia Securities, has likewise shut down operations recently.

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FONTANA DC/VC*	80,000/120,000*	80,000/150,000/200,000*
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METROPOLITAN AB*		175,000/180,000*
MINDSA IND CORP.*	200,000/250,000*	240,000/350,000*
MT MALABAY AB/VC* (info)	200,000	400,000/550,000/12.5M*
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July 25, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM RISE LAGUNA Timmy Gabriel (contact person) Brgy. Tubigan Binaan, Laguna Tel. No.: (049) 839-1136 CP # 0919-8195899	RISE DAGUPAN Mr. Generoso Bernaldo/Ms. Imelda Sarmiento (contact persons) 43 Perez Blvd., Dagupan City Tel. (075) 515-6755 CP # 0917-3654775 / 09196649784

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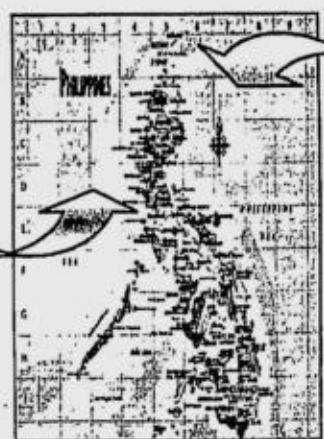
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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

A Filipino finishes CJ at UC

MELCHOR C. de Guzman of Mangaldan, Pangasinan was conferred Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice (CJ) by the University of Cincinnati (UC) in Ohio, United States last June 8.

Back in his postgraduate days, De Guzman was a recipient of two university scholarships both for MS and Ph.D. programs: the UGS (University Graduate Scholarship), a competitive scholarship granted to students and the GA (Graduate Assistantship), a prestigious scholarship that provides stipend to recipients. He was the only Filipino

who enrolled in the Criminal Justice program in 1990 and the only Filipino who finished an MS in Criminal Justice in 1992 from the same university.

De Guzman's dissertation titled "Integrity, Legitimacy, Efficiency and Impact: Do All These Matter in the Civilian Review Board of the Police?" aims to evaluate the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) in the Philippines that will lead to policy formulation for the board.

At present, he is the director of the office of student affairs of Adamson University. Before as-

suming his present position, he was a faculty member of the Philippine Christian University, Manila, a committee secretary of the Senate Committee on National Defense, Senate of the Philippines, an academic advisor at the College of Education of the University of Cincinnati and an advisor at the International Student Office of the University of Cincinnati.

Throughout his stay in the United States, his foster parents, spouses Herbert and Elvira Sun of Batesville, Indiana, supported him.

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Librarians' seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists will conduct a three-day seminar-workshop on "Emerging Technologies, Trends and Issues on Library and Archival Management" at Tagaytay Country Hotel, E. Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City. The seminar, which was initially scheduled for July 4 to 6, was moved to July 30 to August 1. For reservations call Medy at 897-8808 local 329/330, Juven at 527-9672 and Lily at 929-9180.

Beta Sigma Fraternity holds medical mission

LAST July 16, the Beta Sigma Fraternity, NCR Assembly held a medical mission for barangays in the UP Diliman Area. Residents of Pook Dagohoy, Palaris and Ricarte were given free consultation and medicine as part of the socio-civic project. The fraternity's NCR Assembly president John Aclaro, a batch 68' member of the Silliman University chapter, spearheaded the event together with 15 practicing medical doctors belonging to the group. This was also done in tribute to their late brods, Giancarlo Leung and Noe Espino.

Knights of Columbus LICC 8451 19th installation

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus, La Immaculada Concepcion Council No. 8451 District I - 36, will be having their 19th Installation of Officers and Directors on Saturday, July 21, 5 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Dasmariñas, Cavite. Elected Grand Knight, Sir Knight Tolentino C. Mantillas, together with the other incoming officers and directors will be inducted by District Deputy Sir Macario Tomas Javier Jr.

Academic Achievement Awards 2001



GTAAA GETS FUJITSU SUPPORT

Information processing systems company Fujitsu Philippines Inc. expressed its support as one of the major sponsors in the 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). GTAAA is Globe's core social responsibility program aimed at promoting student excellence in telecommunications and information technology. Now on its sixth year, the GTAAA has included in its area of implementation the Visayas region. The nationwide search has selected a total of 16 qualifiers for the college level and 430 qualifiers for the high school level. The GTAAA is the only industry-academe linkage program in the telecoms and IT industries. Signing the agreement are (from left) Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos, Globe Telecom SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima, Fujitsu Phils. executive vice president and general manager Yasuhiro Hara and Fujitsu Phils. director for switching system Satoshi Takakura.

Contract Signing



DINERS CLUB SPONSORS AYALA CENTER'S MIDNIGHT MADNESS

DINERS Club, the world's first credit card, recently inked an agreement with Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI), under which Diners Club will be one of the major corporate sponsors of the seasonal Midnight Madness sale popularized by Ayala shopping malls. Diners Club application booths will also be set up in Glorietta, attended by friendly and helpful DCI representatives, making it doubly easier for mall-goers to apply for and avail of the unique features and better benefits of a Diners Club Card. Shown are (from left) Patrick Carlos, assistant vice president for business development of Security International Card Corporation (SICC), issuer of Diner's Club cards in the Philippines; Ronald Bibonia, vice president for business development of SICC; Cathy Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager of ALI's Commercial Centers Group (ALI-CCG) and Thez Garcia, advertising and promotions assistant of (ALI-CCG). This contract further strengthens the relationship between the country's leaders in property development and quality credit card service.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespino@inquirer.com.ph

Celebrating RP history by 'restoring' century-old book

IT may well be the most definitive book on Philippine history. We are talking about Emma Blair and James Robertson's "The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898." Made up of 55 volumes and 20,000 pages, the work (also affectionately known as Blair and Robertson) is the product of a five-year research around the world from 1902 to 1907.

The authors visited archives, libraries and museums, gathered, translated and annotated manuscripts. Philippine history, in Blair and Robertson's research, begins prior to Ferdinand Magellan's discovery of the Philippines in 1521.

Originally meant to help the Americans assess and understand their new colony in the Far East at the turn of the century, Blair and Robertson's work consists of chronicles, letters, official reports, narratives, royal decrees, ecclesiastical documents and travel accounts. It even includes

the Papal Bulls of Pope Alexander VI in 1493 urging Spain and Portugal to expand their territories in the name of the Catholic faith.

Through the years, Blair and Robertson threatened to disappear from public consciousness. Its remaining copies were destroyed at the height of the second World War. Its prohibitive price — P800 in the early 1900s—was also a factor. Copies of its limited run in 1973 was quickly secured by scholars and collectors. Only a handful of educational institutions managed to keep their own copies in their libraries.

The work's importance as a source of information on Philippine history makes it more valuable with age. Filipino students will find it extremely useful in understanding their country's past, present and future.

Reproducing the entire work may still seem as prohibitive as it was decades ago. In its 150th

anniversary this year, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), through modern technology, has devised a way to give Blair and Robertson a new lease on life and to further its reach to as many Filipino schoolchildren as possible.

Enter the CD-Rom version of Blair and Robertson. All 55 volumes of it are now spread in two discs and make up 1.3 gigabytes of historical data. The BPI-sponsored CD-Rom edition is now much lighter and more practical and easier to carry — the better for it to reach more Filipinos that want to go beyond classroom handouts and textbooks.

As part of its anniversary celebrations, BPI donated sets of the CD-Rom at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City. "The Philippine Islands" will be distributed to public schools and libraries nationwide through Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) Secretary Raul Roco.



BANCNET AWARDS PAYMENT GATEWAY PROJECT TO FUJITSU

BancNet has recently signed the contract with Fujitsu Phils. Inc., awarding them the development of the BancNet Multi-Channel Payment Gateway. Fujitsu, one of the country's leading IT system integrators, won this multi-million peso project and passed the stringent selection criteria of BancNet. Designed to ensure the highest security in all transactions, the BancNet Payment Gateway shall enable BancNet's 4 million cardholders to pay for purchases and bills over the Internet. This BancNet project is another worthwhile endeavor for the ultimate benefit and convenience of its member banks, their customers and facilities. Shown during the signing were (from left) Yolanda Arbis, Fujitsu director for financial services systems; Felipe Manalang, president of Fujitsu Phils. Inc.; Jose F. Santos, BancNet chair and RCBC executive vice president; and Angelito M. Villanueva, BancNet president and Metrobank senior executive vice president. Standing (from left) were Fe Ordoño, Fujitsu account manager, Aristeo P. Zafra, Jr., BancNet senior vice president and chief operating officer, Monchito Ibrahim, Fujitsu director, and Francisco Caparros, Jr., BancNet Payment Gateway committee chair and Asia United Bank senior vice president.



PLDT, SMART, PAPTTELCO AGREEMENT

In a landmark development for provincial telephone operators, telecom leaders PLDT and Smart signed recently two separate agreements with the Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies (Paptelco). Under these agreements, which were mediated by the National Telecommunications Commission, provincial operators were given a bigger share of the revenues generated by calls from Paptelco networks to Smart cell phone users. At the same time, the call charges were reduced. PLDT also lowered NDD toll charges from Paptelco subscribers. These measures are expected to boost call traffic between Paptelco subscribers on the one hand, and Smart cell phone users and PLDT landline phones on the other. Shown in photo were (from left) Roger V. Quevedo, head of Smart's legal and carrier relations department; NTC commissioner Eliseo M. Rio, Jr.; Ramon S. Santiago, PLDT vice president for interconnection services; Enrico L. delos Reyes, Paptelco president; and NTC deputy commissioner Armiñanes S. Roa-Borje.

Danish Connection hits the spot

APPROACHING the Danish Connection Viking Café, you are reminded of a European quaint café tucked away. The ambience theme setting is for the matured thinking persons that need a perfect place to relax and enjoy great food.

The interior brings a moody atmosphere from the woodcarvings to mural paintings. The reddish Vigan tile floor showcases the oak chairs and tables. A Viking ship is hanging over the ceiling with various designs of shields that echoes all around the corner. The bar is shaped like a real Viking ship with a dragon's head on its pole and surrounded by cushioned bar stools. A medley of various music, from the collections of classic artists like the Blues Brothers, B.B. King, Frank Sinatra, Van Morrison, George Benson, Eric Clapton and just about everything that reminds of swing, jazz and rock 'n roll days is piped in to sooth your imagination.

When you say service, staff are well trained and very attentive to your needs. Danish Connection upholds its reputation for fine dining with a range of traditional and contemporary European dishes called the "Simply Classic Cuisine."

The "Valhalla" (heaven) rear room can cater up to 50 guests and is ideal for business, association or private meetings and parties. Our resident chef will ensure your functions a total success.

The concept of a country style European Inn with a Viking theme has an impact mostly on expatriates. However, nationals are increasingly appreciating the unique style. They recognize a home away from home, where everyone is treated with respect. Guests identify with the warm ambience and service and the characteristics are well known as synonymous with good food and good value.

The cozy pub atmosphere associated with blue and white country-inn crockery, Italian silverware, excellent classic European cuisine and friendly service is an equation of contrasts that blend so well together at Danish. The feature of a bar in the center does not break up but rather enhances the relaxed homey atmosphere.

Guaranteed cool pick: Chili's Bar and grill

CHILI'S grills like no place else. Chilli's Bar and Grill began in 1975 as a simple burger and chili restaurant in Dallas, Texas where people liked to hang out and have fun with friends. Since then, Chili's has blossomed to over 637 fun neighborhood hangout spots in over 20 countries worldwide.

Of course, Chili's does not only mean fun and laughter. Chili's has one of the hottest menus in town. For starters, try the famous Chili's Awesome Blossom, a moundful of fresh whole deep-fried onions served ever crispy and crunchy. Feast over sizzling Fajitas and Big Mouth Burgers that are guaranteed to capture your attention from the kitchen all the way to the table. For the more faint-hearted diners, Chili's Guildless Grills feature select low-fat dishes that do not scrimp on taste. But beware, the desserts are far from guilt-free. Cap your meal with a glass of Chili's Margarita Presidente that's hand-shaken to perfection.

Have the ultimate fun at three Chili's restaurants — in Greenbelt, Greenhills and Tomas Morato. Feast 'til you drop, but remember to keep your breath cool and fresh with Astring-O-Sol Ice ready-to-use mouthwash.

Watch out for the next Astring-O-Sol Ice Guaranteed Cool Restaurant feature for the latest updates on the coolest dining spots in Manila.



MILO SPORTING WORLD TOUR RAFFLE DRAW

Milo Sporting World Show hosts (from left) Paolo Trillo and Janelle So pick winning entries for the Milo Sporting World Tour Raffle promotion. Assisting them are (from right) BFAD representative Clony Bonaobra, Publicis-AMA senior account executive Cathy Arguelles and Milo brand manager Juan Miguel Alvarez. The Milo Sporting World Tour Raffle is a nationwide promo that is giving away vacation trips for two to various sports events worldwide. Winners are drawn during the Milo Sporting World Show every week.



DISTRICT GOVERNORS SUPPORT

District Governor Johnny T. Co Jr. (center) of District 301-D2 raises the hands of the lion candidates for district governor and vice district governor of District 301-D2 for Lion Year 2001-2002. At the left is Lion candidate for vice governor Susan V. Brizuela and at right is Lion candidate for District Governor Alejo M. Dumrique. The occasion was done during the filing of candidacy at the District 301-D2 headquarters in Bernardo Park, Quezon City.



COOL AIR DROP

Wrigley Philippines Inc., maker of chewing gums Juicy Fruit Gum and Doublemint launched recently its newest chewing gum brand called Cool Air. Cool Air has wave after wave of super cool menthol and eucalyptus flavor that helps one breathe easier, longer than any other menthol candies. Cool Air's launch in Metro Manila was highlighted by a helicopter paper drop event held simultaneously at SM City Carpark, Araneta Center Cubao, and Ever Gotesco Mall Carpark. The event which tied-up with radio station YesFM gave away cash prizes for every winning Cool Air tickets that the lucky winners were able to catch. Shown is the crowd catching Cool Air tickets being showered from the Cool Air helicopter.



ROTARY GOLF WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Makati Ayala led by president Paul K. Chuatlo (third from left) emerged as the overall team champion in the recently concluded eighth leg of District 3830 Governor's Cup at the Langer Course of the Rivera In Silang, Cavite. The tournament, participated in by more than 100 Rotarians, was hosted by members of the Rotary Club of Makati Central and its president Eugene C. Yu (extreme right) who handed out the trophies to the winners.



DELTA PROJECT LINE

Delta Faucet recently launched its new expanded Delta Project Line at the Worldbex 2001. The new model of the Delta Project Line was created in response to the needs of the Asian market. Photo shows Delta Faucet national sales manager engineer Billy Francisco showing the new faucet styles.

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Loans to informal settlers reach P155M in first half

LOW-COST housing loans granted to informal settlers to assure their land tenure and housing security under the government's community mortgage program (CMP) have reached a total of P155.35 million during the first semester of the year, according to the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

Lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president, said the CMP loan availments are equivalent to 124 percent of the average semestral loan levels attained during the 12 and a half years of CMP implementation by the NHMFC.

Salud said the NHMFC is currently processing the CMP loan applications

with a total loan value of P557.56 million, including P55.59 million vouchered accounts in the payment process; P240.75 million with funding commitment lines; and P261.22 million whose documentary requirements are still for completion by the borrower-community associations of informal settlers.

These loans in process will finance 124 urban poor housing sites for a corresponding 14,063 family beneficiaries.

The semestral loan availments bring to P3.12 billion the cumulative loans granted to informal dwellers belonging to the lowest 30 percent of the income population, for a corresponding total of

874 housing sites financed and some 109,791 family beneficiaries.

The CMP loans granted during the first six months include P19.38 million in January; P18.67 million, February; P40.82 million, March; P11.10 million, April; P17.23 million, May; and P48.14 million in June.

The scaled up implementation of the CMP is an integral part of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's poverty alleviation thrusts, which are aimed at redistributing physical resources to the marginalized sector through affordable financing to assure the sector's security of land tenure and access to decent shelter.



FBDC TOPS OFF PHASE 1 OF BONIFACIO RIDGE

The Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. holds the topping-out rites for phase one of Bonifacio Ridge, its first residential project. From left are Lee Meng Kong, chair, L&M Maxco; Carlos S. Rufino, senior vice president, commercial operations 1, FBDC; architect Rogelio Villorosa; Ricardo S. Pascua; Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga; Andrew J. Freeman, president and general manager, Bonifacio Construction Management Corp.; and Amanda G. Santos, vice president, FBDC.

Palms Country Club: Filinvest's crowning gem De Venecia backs

Creba's total housing approach

FILINVEST'S presence in Alabang, now gaining prominence as the new metropolis of the south, is well on its way toward a total development mode.

The master-planning envisioned for the Filinvest Corporate City provided for a balance of commerce and the community's quest for an enhanced quality of living.

Having scored the landscape of this new city and analyzed the potential for supplying the need for a family-oriented "resort-within-a-city" the vision of The Palms Country Club emerged.

Residential communities gravitating toward Alabang to conduct their household needs (supermarket and retail shopping) and seek to feed tired bodies and refresh weary souls find satisfaction in the growing number of alternatives available in the south.

World-class retreat

The Filinvest mission for The Palms Country Club is anchored on this growing reality: a need to provide a world-class retreat serving as a social hub for family, business associates and friends not far away from one's residence.

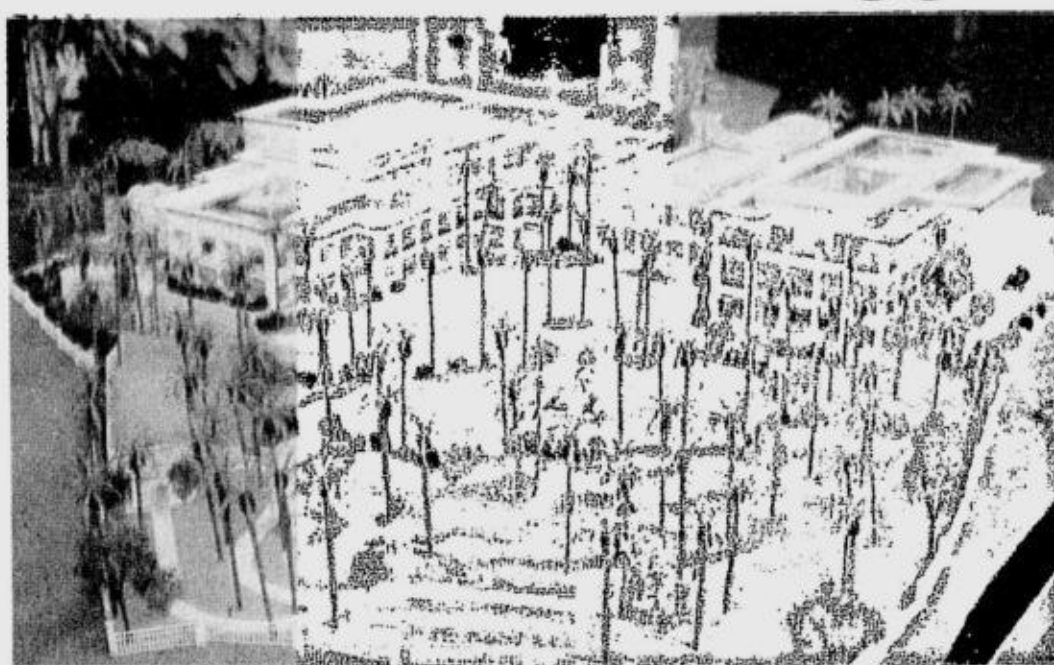
From this, the concept of a country club membership evolved.

The Palms Country Club incorporates the frills and perks of an exclusive membership club but more cognizant of the family as a whole, and as individuals making up the whole.

Compared to golf-driven country clubs which focus on the golfers' needs, The Palms will cater to the interests of the different age groups within a family unit.

Facilities

The recreational and sports facilities will include a gym with cardio-theater and aerobics, badminton



THIS is the scale model of The Palms Country Club, which will open in May next year.

courts, air-conditioned squash courts, basketball court, 8-lane bowling alley, a sports bar with dance floor and KTV.

Women will delight in The Palms' full spa facilities and services: sauna, steam baths, plunge pools, massage, body and facial treatments, hair and beauty salon.

A "Coco Club" is envisioned for the teens, preteens and toddlers' set.

Dining pleasures

The Palms Country Club will also indulge the members' appetites for dining pleasures. There will be a Japanese and Continental restaurant plus a family coffee shop. Four themed bar and snack outlets for the younger generations are also planned.



CLUB advisory board chair Vicente Ayllon, left, looks over Palms scale model with Edilberto Bravo and Jose Sandejas.

For private dining and business meetings, there will be nine function rooms plus a ballroom to accommodate 260 guests.

An elegant Library Lounge and an Internet-linked business center work as an extension to members' offices after hours.

To protect the integrity of the club, membership is by invitation of referral.

International Leisure Consultants, a country club management company, will provide the marketing and club management expertise to ensure that the members' expectations of a world-class country club are met.

The Palms Country Club, a gem of a family oriented membership club, is scheduled to open its doors to a bright new lifestyle for residents of the south by 2002.

BY CHARLIE V. GOYAREB
National president
Chamber of Real Estate
and Builders Associations

RIGHT off, we can't help but exclaim "Hurrah!" and execute a hearty salute to Rep. Jose de Venecia. The country has found in Representative De Venecia a true champion in the provision of housing who is expected to push with all the might at his command for a sustainable program, aimed at aggressively responding to the nation's crisis of homelessness.

For the great news is that JDV, as some friends call him, has come out in strong support of the Creba package of housing program reforms under a proposed Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act that will address the critical housing problem in its totality.

Essential measures

The omnibus measure provides for essential measures dealing with four major aspects of housing and land development—finance, production, regulation and administrative structures. Thus, the measure seeks to establish a centralized homebuyer financing program as a permanent viable scheme, the necessary administrative infrastructure through a Department of Housing and Urban Development, a land access policy to resolve land jurisdiction issues that affect housing and nonagricultural projects, and the provision for regulatory functions being lodged in a specific agency under the DHUD. The lack of a broad perspective and therefore, a comprehensive approach, according to De Venecia himself, have been mainly to blame for the helter-skelter kind of approach to the problem.

The occasion for De Venecia's expression of support for Creba's housing scheme was a meeting called by De Venecia with Creba officers led by lawyer Manuel M. Serrano and myself and joined in by a group of representatives, including Ed Zalcita, Raul Gonzales, Jose S. Salceda, Rodolfo Albano and Robert A. S. Barbers.

A few days before, the experienced House leader had been speaking of the pressing need for a well-planned sustainable housing program with active private sector participation that would have the capacity of producing 400,000 units yearly for the next 20 years. This program is a vital component of what he called "7-4-7" Action Plan which seeks to propel a 7 percent yearly rate of economic growth for the next seven years.

Pump-priming impact

Obviously, the Creba-recommended measures fit rather well into De Venecia's broad but sharp vision, especially encompassing the plight of the low-income and the underprivileged sector.

There is an equally important reason for supporting Creba's total approach, which De Venecia must have in mind. It is this—while it is specifically focused on the needs of millions of homeless families, a working and effective housing program yields a pump-priming impact in terms of generating employment and income opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed, catalyzing business activity for 65 other industries, and generating millions of revenues for the government.

That De Venecia is the incoming House Speaker will all the more auger well for the country's prospects of effectively coping with the housing problem.

Sphere of influence

For then, De Venecia won't be just one of a number of pro-housing advocates in the chamber, but he will be an effective go-getter, a sincere pro-people politician, and a House Speaker to boot. To be sure, De Venecia's sphere of influence won't be confined to the halls of Congress, but just as effectively outside, in interacting with housing agency executives, the bureaucracy and the industry for them to join and help the cause of housing the Filipino. In fact, even before meeting with Creba, he had secured the commitment of the Bankers Association of the Philippines to support his proposal to mobilize P270 billion in nonperforming assets of private commercial banks in joint ventures with private developers for the housing program. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura is supporting the project.

De Venecia is no stranger to this kind of work. In the past, also as House Speaker, he demonstrated political will and helped galvanize the chamber into passing what at the time were deemed vital pieces of legislation for the public's welfare and national development. No doubt about it, he will be an invaluable asset to the Macapagal administration.

We, therefore, have the highest hopes that, before long, the government will finally be mounting, with the all-out support of the private sector, a comprehensive and integrated program that will systematically, continually and successfully respond to the housing crisis for the sake of our homeless Filipinos and the entire nation.

Camella Homes RFO units now available

CAMELLA Homes has made owning a home even easier with its RFO (ready for occupancy) promo for four of its subdivisions near northern Metro Manila where outright dis-

counts of up to P50,000 await buyers.

"With this, we are reinvigorating the basic tenet that was laid down by our founder, that of having a roof over every Filipino's head," said Camella Homes chief executive officer Marcelino C. Mendoza.

Mendoza said Camella Homes is presenting a better alternative than merely renting every month and with virtually almost the same rates, Camella Homes' houses and lots can be considered as something like a rent-to-own scheme.

"As the name implies, the units are ready to be lived in and with the payment of the down payment and some paperwork, buyers can immediately move in to

their new home,"

Mendoza said. Available for the promo are several house models in the following subdivisions: Northwinds, Woodbridge, Carissa Homes North and Carissa Homes East. These houses are Amira, Criselda, Kristine, Clarisse, Royale and Francesa with lot areas ranging from 60 square meters to 120 sq. m.

There are financial schemes that will suit your budget. With a P5,000 reservation fee, you can choose from either the down-payment or no-down-payment schemes at easy on the pocket installment that stretches to 10 years.

RFO units are available at San Jose Del Monte and Pandi, both in Bulacan, and Teresita, Rizal.

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WELL AND GOOD



Tina Aboitiz Juan

morph (athletic-looking, muscular, maintains weight easily) and ectomorph (long, lean, lanky, does not put on weight easily).

These three body types can come in four

EXERCISING/ p.C3



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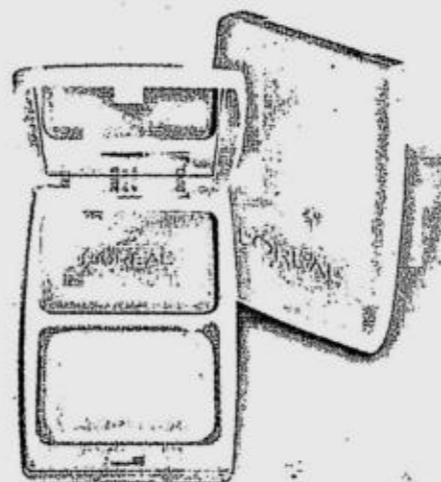


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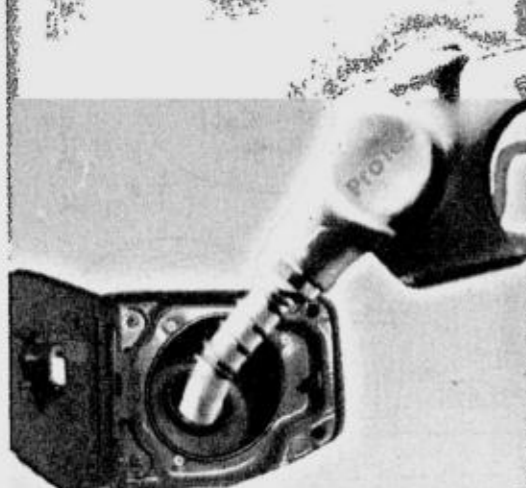
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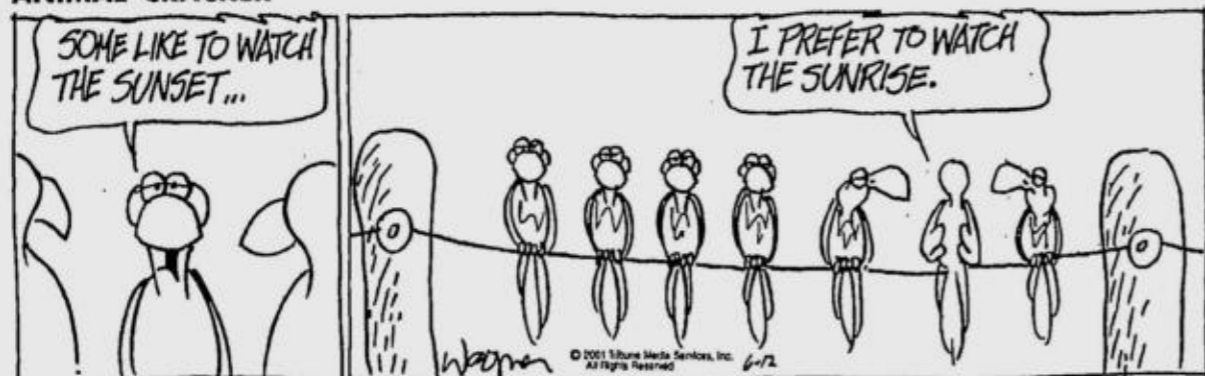


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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donald Sutherland, Diahann Carroll, Peter Schickele, David Hasselhoff, Phyllis Diller, Art Linkletter, Camilla Parker Bowles
Happy Birthday: You have to put your talents to work for you this year. Opportunities will open up if you are confident, steadfast and a bit pushy. It's time to move into the express lane and fulfill your hopes and dreams. The possibilities are endless if you believe in yourself wholeheartedly. Your numbers: 9, 13, 27, 34, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Travel or getting out with friends will be your best bet. You may want to pick up some new outfits to project the right image for the goals you've set.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Exaggeration will get you in hot water today. A loved one will cause your emotions to flutter. Be more observant and less demanding. Don't make irreversible decisions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take part in activities involving self-improvement and physical enhancement. You should consider spending time building new friendships that will enlighten you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll find it hard to resist a good deal, a "get cash fast" scheme or a quick way to beautify yourself. Don't be so gullible. Rethink your motives before taking a chance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you take part in behind-the-scenes activities, you will discover there is more to learn than you first thought. Pick up books that will prepare you more thoroughly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you work with will disappoint you. Be careful how you treat colleagues and what you say. Look at your goals and decide who can help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your high energy must be put to good use. Sports activities will not only help you eliminate stress and tension, but bring you in contact with romantic partners. So get busy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): New methods and innovative technology will make your job easier than you anticipated. Don't be too quick to judge your position or surroundings at work. The situation may not be as it appears.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A commitment is in order, and your mate expects to hear it. Be prepared to make compromises and promises. However, be sure to be honest with yourself as well as your partner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be more conscientious, introspective and cautious when dealing with your professional work or financial matters. You can accomplish a lot if you don't rely on others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't take unnecessary risks. Situations may get out of hand if you disagree with someone you are close to. It's a good idea to work on your own projects and disregard others' promises.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional upset will disrupt your domestic scene if you have neglected responsibilities. Poor investments will be a result of dealing with dubious individuals.

Birthday Baby: You are curious, inventive and always looking for adventure. You have a strong sense of who you are and what you want as well as the need to nurture and care for loved ones and those less fortunate.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



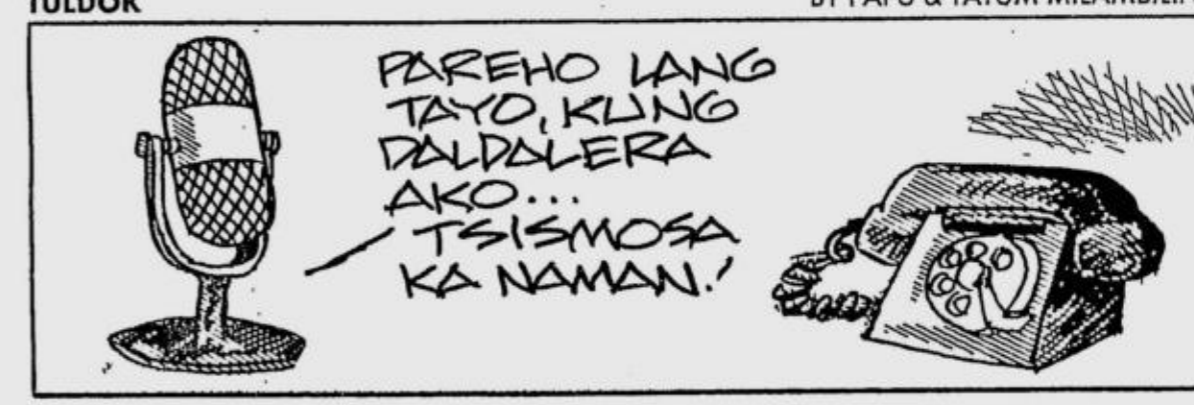
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

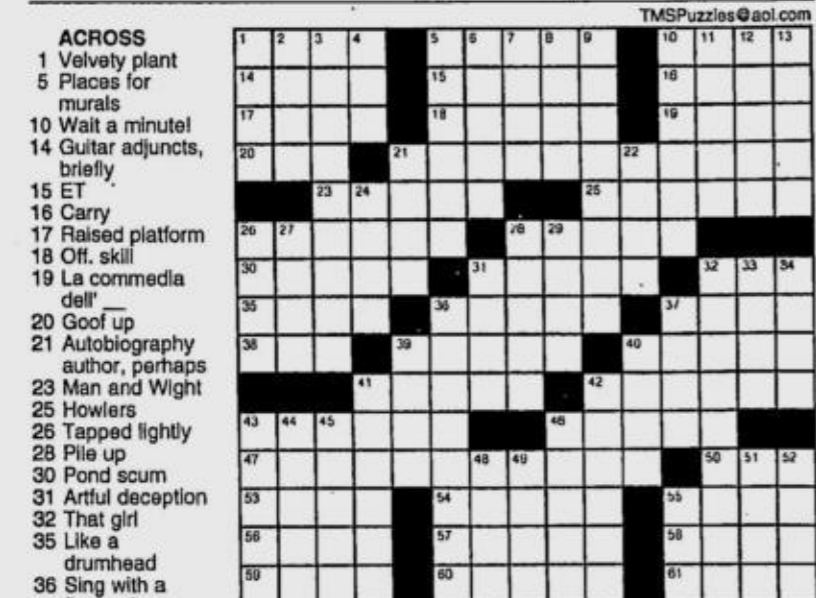


TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD



Exercising for your body type and shape

(From page C1)

body shapes based on skeletal structure—spoon (narrow shoulders, wide hips), cone (wide shoulders, narrow hips), ruler (same measurement for shoulders and hips, thick waist), hourglass (only for women, proportioned shoulders and hips, narrow waist).

Endomorphs

Since male and female endomorphs put on fat easily, they need to add more cardiovascular or aerobic workouts to their exercise routine to keep the fat at bay. Male endomorphs usually have no problem achieving muscle mass, so once they do, their weights programs should have more repetitions (15-20) and lighter poundage if they want to achieve a more chiseled and defined look. Female endomorphs may or may not be naturally prone to big muscles. If they are, the

lighter weights/more reps program will work for them, too. However, many female endomorphs have a double whammy against them—not much muscle with a tendency to get fat quickly. In this case, moderate to heavy poundage with less repetitions (8-12) will help the battle of the bulge because more muscle mass means more calories burned even while the body is at rest.

Mesomorphs

Lucky mesomorphs, they have the best of both worlds. They build muscle quickly and can maintain their weight easily. The average cardiovascular and weights program usually does the trick for them. This means three times a week of 30-minute aerobic sessions (walking, running, cycling, dancing, etc.) and 30 minutes of weight training (one to three sets of one exercise per body part, moderate poundage at 12-15 reps).

Ectomorphs

Ectomorphs can also get away with the minimum for aerobics (20-30 minutes three times a week) just to maintain muscle mass and strength because that is their weak spot. This means that ectomorphs have to lift moderate to heavy weights at lower reps (8-12). Of course, this has to be done gradually and safely.

In summary, endomorphs have to concentrate more on cardiovascular workouts, ectomorphs more on weights, and mesomorphs can equally divide their exercise program between aerobics and weights. "Concentrate more on" does not mean to neglect the other aspects of fitness. For example, just because endomorphs have to focus more on aerobic exercise does not mean they should not lift weights or do stretching exercises.

Changing your shape

If you want to change your shape, there are specific ways that you can work out to accentuate the positive and minimize the negative. Keep in mind, though, that I am only talking about the aesthetic side of exercise not the athletic or health side of things. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, your own or the person looking at you. What is beautiful to you may not be so attractive to someone else. My suggestion is do what you think makes you look good. To heck with everyone else. If you think your shape is attractive, more power to you.

Your shape is determined by your skeletal structure, your specific fat distribution pattern and your muscular mass pattern. Obviously, you cannot reshape your bones but you can do something about the fat and muscles. However, any change you achieve will not be permanent. You can only maintain your results for so long as you exercise and eat properly because the reversibility principle of fitness states that you will revert back to your original fitness level and shape when you stop exercising regularly.

Ideally, you want to add muscle mass to narrower areas of your body and lose fat from the wider areas so you can change your shape. Unfortunately, you cannot always manipulate the body exactly the way you want to. It has been observed that it is easier to "spot build" than it is to "spot reduce." In other words, it is easier to make muscles bigger at specific spots than it is to reduce fat at specific spots.

Cone

Overweight cones store fat mostly in the upper body (this is when they are also called "apples"). The good news is that when they lose weight, they tend to become more proportioned because they lose fat mostly from the upper body and abdomen. Normal weight cones that want a more symmetrical look need to make their leg muscles bigger to balance out their wider shoulders. This is achieved with a weight-training program designed for muscle mass (translation: heavy weights).

Spoon

Overnight spoons (or "pears") have bad news because when they lose weight, their shape doesn't change. They just go from being big spoons to small spoons. They lose fat all over instead of only in the lower body. However, a spoon can change her shape (this is mostly a woman's



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

problem) by building muscle mass in her upper body (chest, shoulders, arms, upper back). Successful spoons can achieve an hourglass shape.

Ruler

Overweight rulers store fat mostly around the abdomen. Lucky for them the fat stored there have more beta or fat-releasing receptors that respond well to diet and exercise. Male rulers who want to look more cone-like or female rulers who want to look more like hourglasses have to focus on making the muscles of their "wings" or sides of the upper back (latissimus dorsi) more prominent so the waist looks smaller.

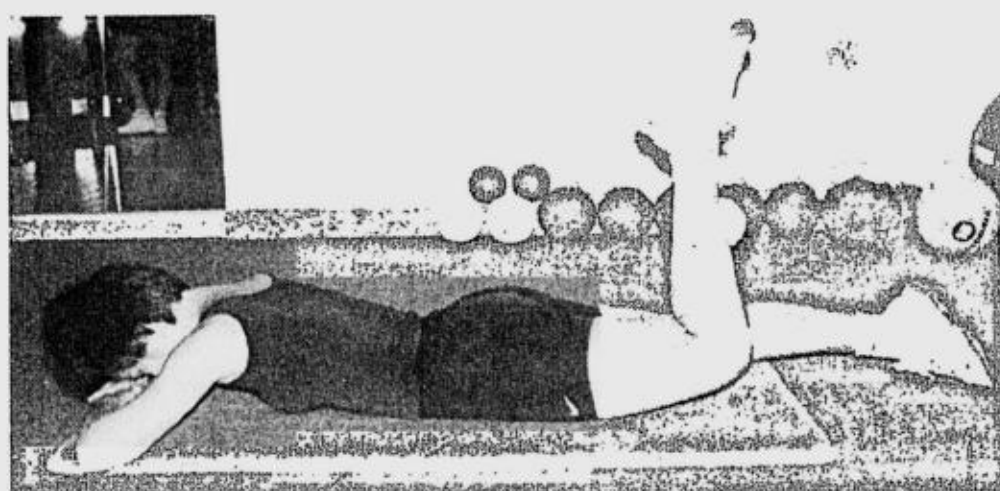
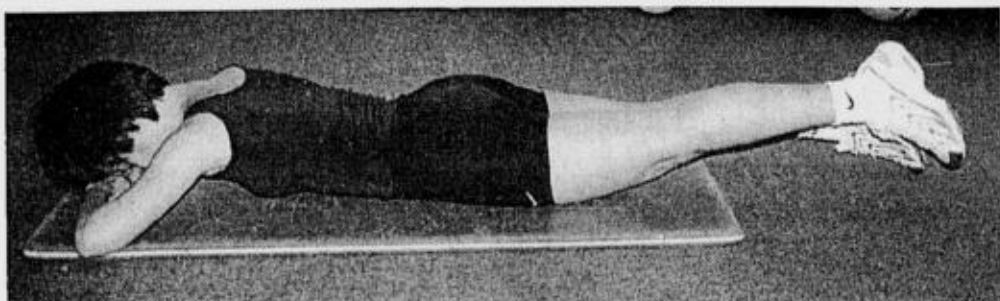
Hourglass

An overweight hourglass is simply a bigger hourglass. The proportions tend to stay the same, just bigger. An endomorphic hourglass needs to concentrate on keeping weight at a normal level and muscles toned and tight. Ectomorphic hourglasses may want to make muscles bigger so they don't look so thin.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will be holding a Red Cross CPR Certification on July 21 at the Bahay ng Alumnas, UP Diliman Campus. CPR certification is a requirement for those taking the American Council on Exercise Examinations on Oct. 27. Call Lorna Pinzon at 842-0567.

For past articles and exercises, visit my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Prone hip extension and curl

Tightens and tones the buttocks and the hamstrings (back of the thighs).

Equipment:

None or ankle weights

Exercise technique:

1. Lie face down with your hands underneath your forehead.
2. Lift your right leg a few inches off the floor by squeezing your buttocks.
3. Holding the lifted position, bend your knee at a 90-degree angle.
4. This is considered one repetition. Do the desired number of repetitions without lowering

your leg to the floor. Rest. Do the other leg.

Performing tips:

1. Keep both your hipbones on the floor and do not allow your body to be tilted sideways as you do the exercise.
2. "Lengthen and elongate" the exercising leg away from you when it is straight and toward the ceiling when you bend the knee.
3. Keep the buttocks contracted throughout the exercise.

Repetitions:

Do 10-15 repetitions per leg. Rest. Do another set if you want to.

Do things exist only in our minds?

A READER named Dennis e-mailed me the following thought-provoking question:

"I watched Discovery Channel's program on 'Science Frontiers' where an experiment was shown. Test subjects lay on the bed with helmets and wires connected to their heads. Weak electrical impulses were then sent through these wires. The subjects didn't know what they were being tested for.

"After the sessions, each of them was asked what they experienced. The result, one saw a bright light, a tunnel or something. Some saw either their loved ones, others saw God, ghosts, etc. Still others felt they were in a bottomless pit.

"What the program was really trying to say is that 'all these are only in the mind.' We see things because of electrical impulses in the brain. What one sees differ from others only because of their culture, personal background and belief.

"What do you think?"

Not necessarily merely a product of the mind. The electrical impulses introduced into the brain can put a person in a meditative state or alpha level where such experiences can take place. It does not follow therefore that visions of spirits, whether human or divine, under those laboratory conditions are merely products of electrical impulses.

But what you are really raising is a very profound metaphysical and epistemological question, something that has been debated and argued about for thousands of years by philosophers, neuroscientists and thinkers.

Nature of reality

Essentially what you are asking is, "What is the nature of reality? What is the nature of knowledge? How do we know that what we know has objective reality or only a product of our mind, our imagination? Is there really such a thing as objective reality?"

Wow! These questions bring back memories my philosophy days in college. And I can only vaguely remember now the answers given at the time. If I recall correctly there were several answers advanced by various philosophers.

The early Greek philosophers said, yes, there's such a thing as objective reality and it is possible to know it, while a modern philosopher, Immanuel Kant, says, our mind is incapable of knowing objective reality (which he calls the "noumena"), only subjective reality (which he calls "phenomena"). Quantum physics further complicated the issue by saying that the observer affects the object being observed and it changes in accordance with our perception of it.

With the advent of high-tech computerized equipment, with its ability to simulate physical activity simply by mental stimulation, the so-called virtual reality, the distinction between objective and subjective becomes even more blurred. Today one can experience virtual space travel, and even

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucó



virtual sex, as if it were the real thing. This is essentially the question explored in the blockbuster movie "The Matrix," starring Keanu Reeves.

This reminds me about what the great Chinese Taoist philosopher, Chuang Tse, said when asked the same question and the nature of reality. He said: "One day I dreamt I was a butterfly. As a butterfly I was happy to fly from flower to flower. I was convinced I was a butterfly. Then I woke up and realized that, 'No, I'm not a butterfly, but Chuang Tse, the philosopher, dreaming he is a butterfly.' After a while, I said to myself, 'Wait a minute. How do I know that I am not really a butterfly dreaming that he is Chuang Tse?'"

So, what ultimately is real and what is not? I don't know how Democritus, Plato, Epicurus, or Aristotle will answer this question if they were living in today's modern, technologically advanced world. They may go crazy trying to figure out the correct answer, if there is one.

I remember my college philosophy professor tried to answer this problem by saying, "Why don't you ask them to slam their head against a solid wall. If they feel pain and get a lump on their head, then that wall is real enough."

Note: To several readers who have requested me to interpret their dreams, I do not and cannot interpret dreams of people whose backgrounds and personal issues I do not know. The dreamer is the best person who can interpret his own dream, because he will know the meaning of the symbols that appear in the dream. Unless I ask 101 questions from each of you, I will have no basis for interpreting your dreams.

Beware of people who interpret at the drop of a hat without asking about your current issues in life, your hopes, fears, desires, frustrations, for each dream symbol pertains to you personally. That's why most dream dictionaries are useless. Each dream symbolism is highly personal and there are very few universal symbols applicable to everybody. Thus the utter difficulty of interpreting another person's dream out of context.

Write to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St, Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicaucó@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licaucó. Listen to my d2MM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.



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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.



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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is ISO 9002 and how is this associated with MEDICard?

ISO 9002 is a quality assurance model made up of quality system requirements. ISO expects organizations to apply this model, and to meet these requirements, by developing a quality system. MEDICard is ISO 9002 certified. Over the years, we have developed a system or systems to efficiently manage organizational procedure and protocol. These procedures, documented in quality manuals are strictly complied with. In effect, all organizational concerns and transactions pass through strict quality assurance. The end result—the unsurpassed quality in healthcare service that we have been known for since 1987.

Meet your MEDICard Team



Dr. Adriel E. Guerrero is one of the most recently accredited MEDICard medical service providers based in Medical City General Hospital (MCGH). Dr. Guerrero, is a Medicine graduate from UST with specialty training in Internal Medicine from UP-PGH. He also specializes in Cardiology. He is a Diplomate and Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, an Associate Fellow of the Philippine College of Cardiology and member to the Philippine Society of Hypertension. Doc Adriel spends most of his free time with his wife Marie and their three kids, and occasionally playing tennis. For consultations, you may visit Doc Guerrero at MCGH, room 207 of the Medico Bldg. from 9 AM to 12 noon every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Dr. Myra M. Manalang is also one of our recent additions to MEDICard's medical service team. Doc Myra to most of her patients, specializes in General Surgery and is based in Medical City General Hospital (MCGH). She is a Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons and Philippine Society of General Surgeons. On her free days, "doktora" enjoys playing computer games, watching TV and surfing the Internet. For consultations, you may visit Doc Myra from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 2 PM at room 402 of the Medico Bldg.



MEDICard accredited doctor at De La Salle University Medical Center (DLSUMC) is Dr. Maria Esperanza Uy. Dr. Uy is a Doctor of Medicine graduate from the Cebu Institute of Medicine. She specializes in Internal Medicine where she received residency training from DLSUMC. She also specializes in Diabetology. She is a member of the Philippine College of Physicians and has been practicing her specialization since 1997. You may visit Doc Esperanza at the DLSUMC every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 AM to 4 PM for your consultations.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTAYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.



Healing by high-tech heating

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

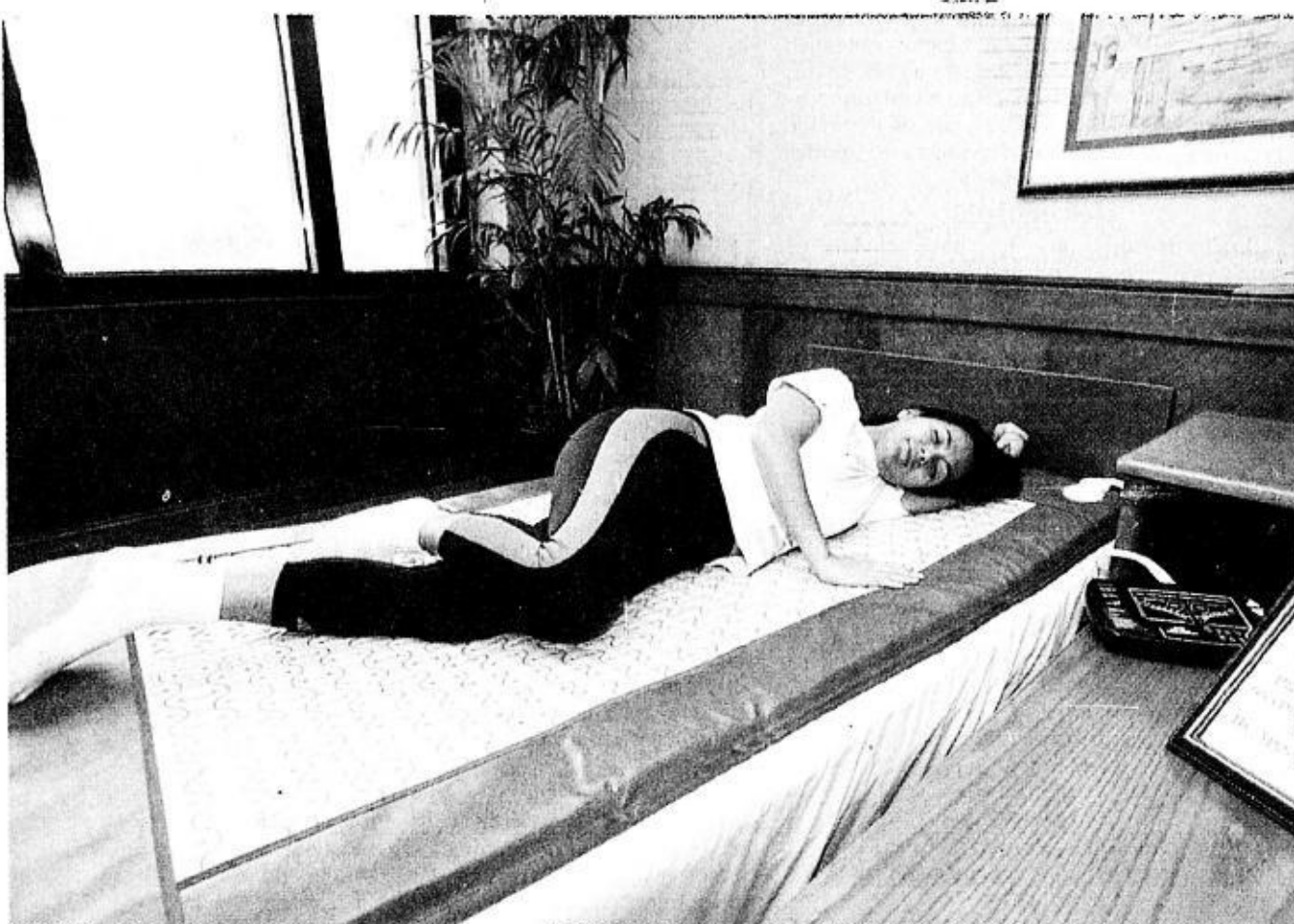
PACITA Borbon was a feeble 70-year-old who badly needed a pacemaker. For two years, she suffered from irregular heartbeat and poor circulation. Because of her weakness, she was often bedridden and needed someone to assist her in walking to keep her from collapsing. Depression and insomnia further dampened her condition.

Borbon tried the Bio-Mat 2000 MX system, a high-tech negative ion and infrared ray treatment system. This mat is composed of 17 layers of high-tech materials, such as silicon urethane, thermal insulation layers and fiberglass. These layers are combined with natural jade, which is known to produce infrared rays that revitalize the biological function of the cells.

Borbon laid in the Bio-Mat for an hour three to four times a week. In less than a month, her heartbeat has increased from 40 to 58 beats per minute. After two months, it went up to nearly 70 and she got rid of her medication. Now she can walk by herself and doesn't tire easily. Her low back pain and arthritis have been relieved. She sleeps as soon as her head hits the pillow.

Beneficial

The Bio-Mat is just one of the many treatments that use far infrared rays or radiant heat. Far infrared or FIR, is a form of energy that heats objects directly. Invisibility, linearity, refractivity and reflectivity characterize FIR. When other objects absorb it, it has the ability to gen-



BIO-MAT is relaxing in the first session, and curative after several sessions

PHOTO: JESS YUSON

The far infrared rays from the Bio-Mat augment the body temperature and stimulate the cardiovascular function; there are claims the treatment helps to remove the build-up of carcinogenic heavy metals, alcohol, nicotine, sodium, sulfuric acid and cholesterol

effect in the muscle tissue and internal organs. The body reacts to this heat as the heart volume and rate increase.

Approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, Bio-Mat 2000 MX applies FIR technology. The far infrared rays from the 17 layers of high-tech materials and jade augment the body temperature and stimulate the cardiovascular function. The increased blood circulation incites the sweat glands. As the body naturally cools itself through sweating, it gets rid of toxins and wastes. There are claims that the treatment helps remove the build-up of carcinogenic heavy metals, alcohol, nicotine, sodium, sulfuric acid and cholesterol.

The energy from the Bio-Mat 2000 MX penetrates the body six inches deeper than the ordinary heating pad. It enables the peripheral blood vessels to expand, bringing ease to muscle and soft tissue injuries. The increased blood flow eliminates metabolic waste products and transmits oxygen-rich blood to the muscles to heal faster.

It also helps you lose water if you're bloated.

No surgery

Richway Pacific International, the distributor of Bio-Mat 2000 MX, has several testimonies.

Bernie Haw experienced severe pain on her left leg not only during her period but also while driving or standing for long hours. Her varicose veins started to bulge. In August, she attended a seminar conducted by Richway and tried the Bio-Mat for 30 minutes. The next day she no longer felt the pain and her varicose veins grew smaller. After using the Bio-Mat more often, the veins were gone and she's pain-free.

Bie Chua's doctor suggested surgery to cure her congenital scoliosis. She couldn't afford the operation and went on with her life, experiencing numbness, insomnia, migraine and backache. She tried alternative treatments but they didn't work.

Last year, she bought herself a Bio-Mat. After several sessions, not only has the treatment cured her backache, she can now sleep. Her skin has improved, her hair has grown thicker and her sinusitis has disappeared.

Faye Love was experiencing hair loss, hypopigmentation, anemia and urinary tract infection. After 10 sessions of being wrapped under the Bio-Mat, her hair started to grow and her skin became rosy and more even-toned. Her pains were relieved.

Elouhim A. Lining was diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease with severe rheumatoid arthritis. He took steroids for three years but they weren't of much help. Last February, he tried the Bio-Mat. Now he claims to be pain-free.

Marlyn Falcon had kidney disorder and underwent hemodialysis twice a week to cleanse the blood and to facilitate waste elimination. However, every dialysis session was uncomfortable. She became dizzy and nauseous and she couldn't stand up until the next day.

After using the Bio-Mat, the side effects disappeared and she could easily get up after dialysis. Her hospital visits were reduced. Another bonus of the Bio-Mat treatment was the relief from hemorrhoids.

For details on the Bio-Mat, call the Westin Health Spa at 551-5555 or Richway Pacific International Inc. at Suite 1, 11/F Agustin I Building Emerald Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City. Call 633-4607 or 634-4389.

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New fitness fashion line covers from eyewear to timepieces

FINALLY, the new Oakley Eye-Jacket 2.0 is now available in the Philippines. The innovative design inspired by the Time Bomb wristwatch (also by Oakley) includes flush-mounted lens and segmented ear stems.

Science fiction becomes science fact through the latest technological advances utilized in the creation of Eye-Jacket 2.0. Using the aid of computers in designing, actual tests were performed to ensure the durability and performance of the sunglasses.

Oakley also adapted Computer Numeric Controlled edging that creates an exact fit between the lens and frame for any facial type. This means that the Eye-Jacket 2.0 can look as good on Asians as it does on Caucasians or African-Americans.

Oakley's other technological developments include the patented XYZ Optics, which make the lenses of the Eye-Jacket 2.0 prevent visual warping. This innovation allows the wearer to see stuff in its undistorted form. Plutonite lenses provide the Eye-Jacket 2.0 with unsurpassed impact protection by blocking 100 percent of all UVA, UVB, UVC and harmful blue light.

Aside from their ultra-chic and distinctive sunglasses, Oakley also offers fine performance footwear, apparel, accessories, watches



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and prescription eyewear to customers in more than 70 countries.

Oakley products are available at the following outlets: Rustan's Makati, The Depot (Rockwell and Robinsons Manila) and Dreambikes in Commonwealth. For dealership inquiries, write to P.O. Box 1645, Manila, Philippines, or fax 815-0331.

To find out more about Oakley and its products, check out www.oakley.com.

BancNet
Non-Stop Banking Network

BancNet turns 11 today

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager

BancNet launches InterBank Fund Transfer

ON THE OCCASION of its 11th anniversary, BancNet is taking electronic banking to a higher level with the launching of the first online InterBank Fund Transfer facility in the Philippines.

BancNet's InterBank Fund Transfer facility or IBFT enables a BancNet Cardholder to transfer funds from his ATM Card to a deposit account in any

BancNet member bank. Cardholders of BancNet can now debit from their peso deposits and credit the amount to another account or to the account of other persons or companies through the convenience of over 1,400 BancNet ATMs nationwide.

IBFT does away with the old practice of issuing checks or doing over-the-counter withdrawals from one bank only to deposit the same amount in another bank. Now with BancNet, cardholders can do all these as one transaction on the ATM. And there is no limit with the number of times or on the amount per transfer done provided the total amount does not go beyond the maximum allowable withdrawal of his bank for the day.

Approved for implementation by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, BancNet's InterBank Fund Transfer facility will initially be available for Citibank, Metrobank, Allied Bank, RCBC, Philtrust, PBCOM, ABN-Amro and Security Bank depositors. Other member banks are expected to follow shortly.

BancNet President Angelito Villanueva considers the service enhancement as another step towards expanding the conveniences offered by

BancNet's multi-function ATMs. Villanueva adds that "Today's fast-paced and pressured lifestyles are decreasing the amount of spare time people have. Thus, people want more value out of everything, including their ATM cards."

BancNet also achieved economies of scale for its member banks since these no longer have to develop and invest in the required infrastructure to respond to the evolving demands of their depositors.

The IBFT facility is already commonly available in most developed countries not only through the ATM, but also through personal computers, the Internet, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or point-of-sale terminals. With new delivery devices and interactive functions being launched in the field of remote banking, BancNet is poised to offer related conveniences with the InterBank Fund Transfer. In the near future, Mr. Villanueva said that the IBFT service would be offered to other institutions, merchants and networks. With the advent of new banking technologies, the system will be enhanced to make transferring funds from one account to the other, more convenient, cost-efficient and highly reliable.

BancNet is currently upgrading a comprehensive

security infrastructure covering all components of its network in anticipation of IBFT's role in supporting E-Commerce transactions. This will pave the way for BancNet cardholders to purchase goods and services from dot-com companies and merchant establishments on the Internet with the ease of payments accepted from the buyer regardless of which banks they maintain their deposit accounts.

Over the years, BancNet has pioneered in consortium-based innovations such as the Point of Sale (POS) system, EDI, Unix-based switching technology, ISP and now the IBFT. The InterBank Fund Transfer facility is BancNet's anniversary offering to its member banks and their cardholders to stay a step ahead of the emerging needs of a growing wired marketplace.

The IBFT enables a BancNet cardholder to transfer funds from his ATM card to a deposit account in another BancNet member bank. He can now debit from his peso deposit and credit the amount to another account or accounts of other persons or companies through the convenience of over 1,400 BancNet ATMs nationwide

BancNet to open new gateway

THE EMERGENCE of the Internet has created new business opportunities in the areas of electronic commerce. More and more organizations are adopting electronic service delivery as a means of increasing value-added services to their customers. Organizations that fail to address the above issues may eventually see their market shares eroding as customers get increasingly technology-literate and may begin to view technology as an enabler to simplify business processes.

In the highly competitive Philippine banking industry, the bigger challenge is to retain retail and corporate customers who demand better service levels and more transacting flexibility. As the country's largest ATM consortium, BancNet, Inc. is embarking on a Multi-Channel Payment Gateway (MCPG) project by the end of the year to provide more payment conveniences to its member institutions, affiliates, and customers.

BancNet's main focus on this project is to have a convenient, reliable and secure delivery of financial and related services for member institutions, affiliates and customers locally and abroad

through the synergy of resources and the best utilization of technology.

BancNet tapped Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI) to integrate and implement the MCPG project. Using BancNet's existing ATM/POS switch and Network Security infrastructure, FPI installs the MCPG to provide BancNet with the ability to consolidate and act as the 'One-Stop' Internet payment gateway.

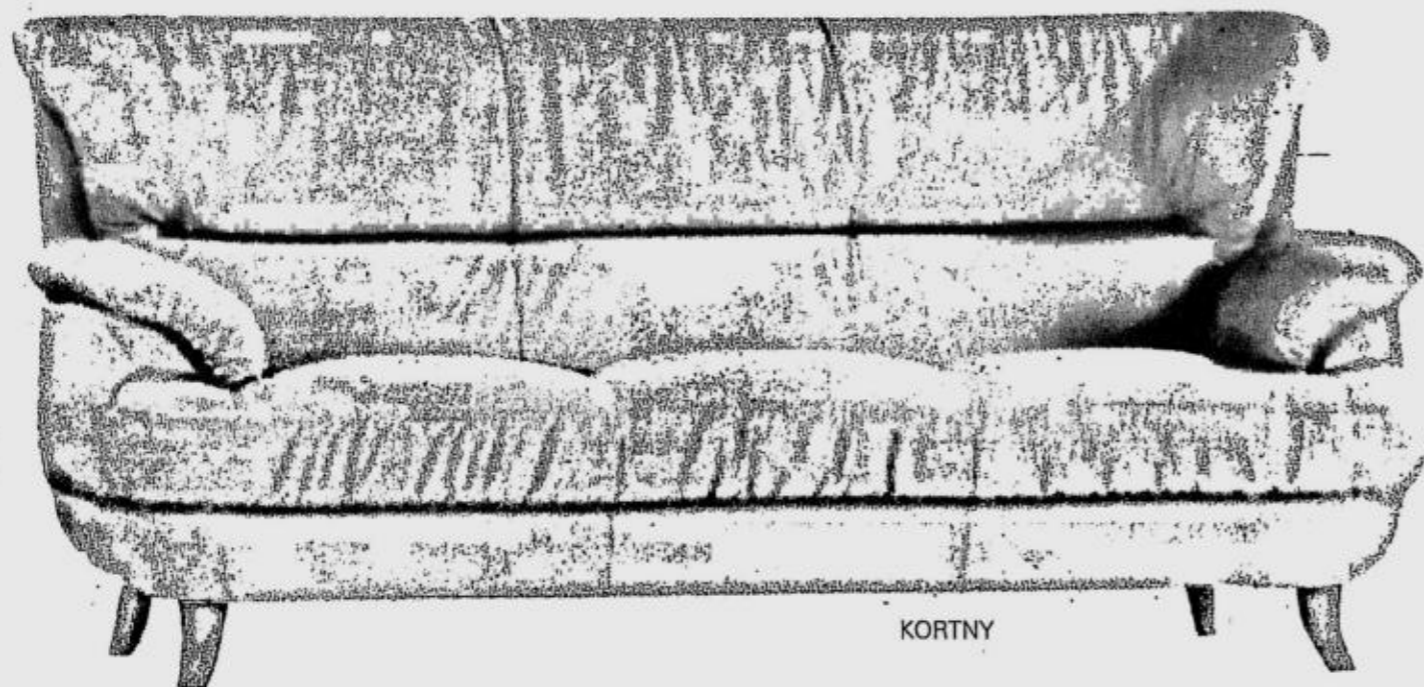
For this MCPG project, Fujitsu partnered with Brokat AG, a leading provider of secure, integrated transaction solutions for online application and online payments in Germany. Brokat has identified its product Twister, one of its distributed multi-channel transaction solutions for financial services companies, as the best product for the MCPG.

The forthcoming MCPG is able to cater to all types of users. For example, direct users in any part of the world with an access to the Internet will be able to use the Web Payment Portal and execute real time payment transactions through the web browser.

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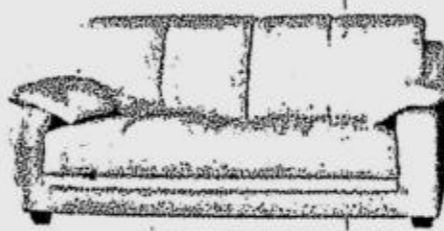
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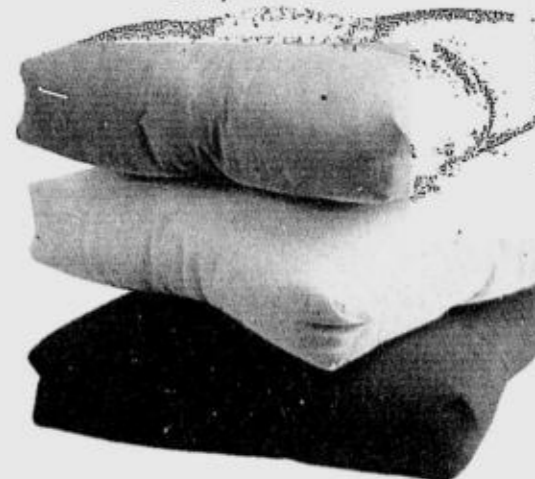
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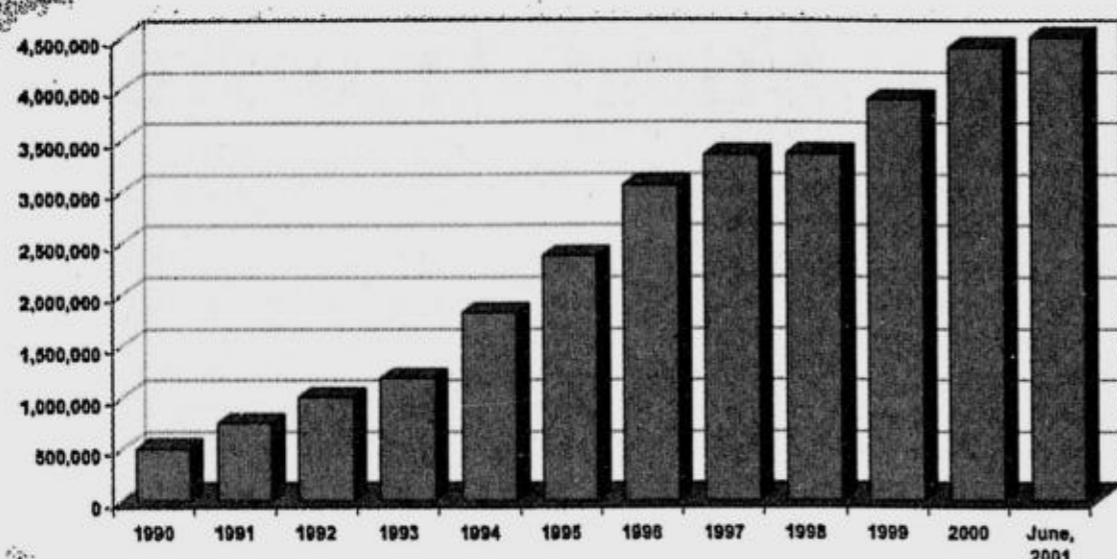
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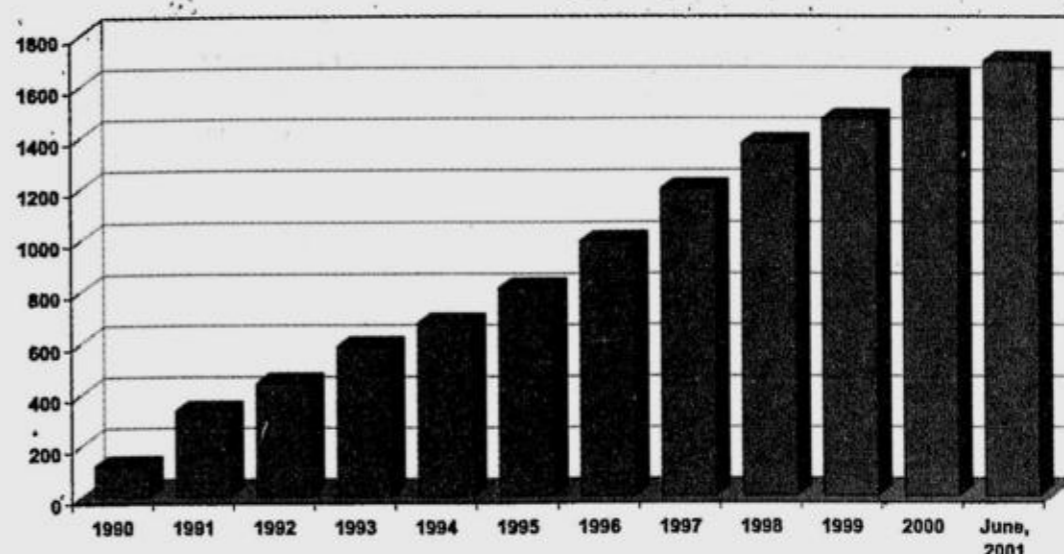
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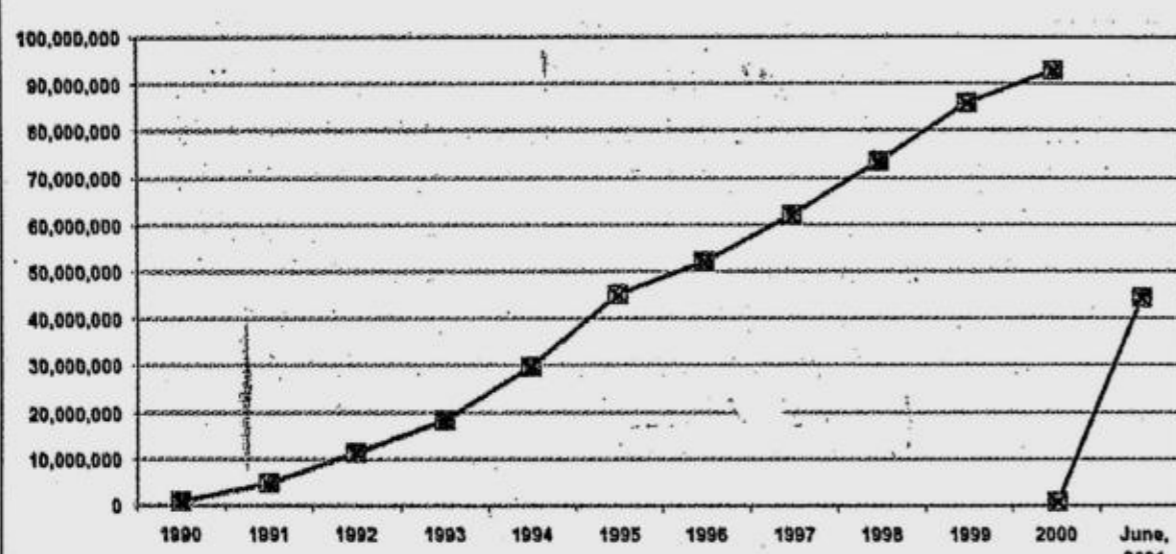
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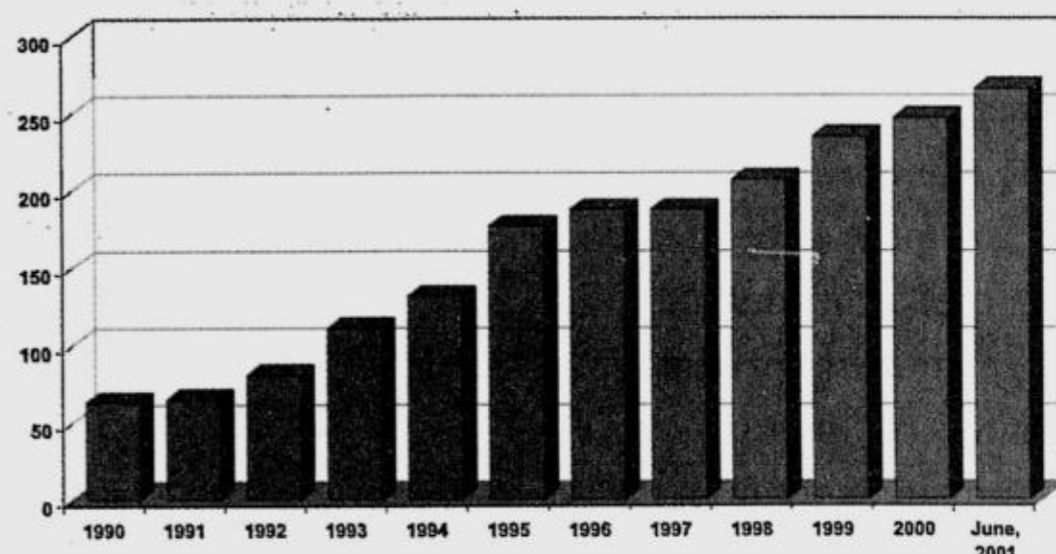
No. of ATMs



Switched Transactions - Volume



Total Resources - Millions



BancNet to open new gateway (From page B1)

BancNet has embarked on a Multi-Channel Payment Gateway (MPCG) to provide convenient, reliable and secure delivery of financial and related services to its member institutions, affiliates and customers using the synergy of resources and technology

Registered biller partners will also be able to allow their own customers to make bills payments to them through the MCPG over the Internet on a browser with ease and security.

For merchants selling goods and services, they will now be able to immediately collect their payments for their goods or services being delivered over the different delivery channels.

And Internet or EDI service providers can now perform payment transactions electronically among themselves through the MCPG.

The MCPG will have the capability to deliver its services through all the latest technology such as PCs, self-service Terminal, Mobile Phones, Telephony, PDA, Web TVs, etc. It will be based on an open standard and will conform strictly to the banking industry standard and security requirements. Moreover, it will be based on the N-tiers architecture and built on a stable and scalable platform. All these will ensure that the MCPG will be able to cater to future expansion and requirements.

The MCPG will provide all merchants with the means to streamline their collection of bills as well as significantly increase their fund floats by allowing real time on-line payment to take place via the above mentioned services delivery channel. This in turn will allow BancNet's member banks to offer more value-added services to their consumers and at the same time encourage more transactions.

With BancNet's Payment Gateway, businesses and bank clients now have a greater opportunity to compete in the electronic world. Through a single tie-up with BancNet, they automatically gain connection to all BancNet member banks with a total client base of 4.5 million debit and over a million credit card holders. Instead of dealing with each bank separately, these merchants and billers prefer a network arrangement because it results to operational efficiency, consolidated reporting and simplified settlement.

Through BancNet's tie-up with merchants and billers, more banking transactions can be pushed to the banks through their existing link to BancNet. With no significant additional investment on their part, the member banks can offer payment gateway services to their depositors.

For banks with their own internet-based facility, the BancNet Payment Gateway will allow them to capture more market share. It will complement their facility; just like the current bill payment arrangement where some merchants or billers affiliated with BancNet are not

affiliated with certain banks. Moreover, interbank fund transfers require the interchange facility of BancNet.

More importantly, the bank customer can now derive an function to his existing BancNet ATM card—he can now use it on other payment channels securely and conveniently. He does not need to open another account or transfer to another bank to be able to make payments on the Internet or mobile phone.

As electronic commerce grows by leaps and bounds because of the availability of technologies and infrastructure Bancnet has decided to embark on the Multi-Channel Payment Gateway Project to help leapfrog the growth of e-commerce locally. As an integrated payment portal on top of a secure infrastructure BancNet can now capture and process payments and manage corresponding transactions online via multiple channels—a testimony to BancNet's responsiveness to the changing needs and times.

BancNet Products and Services

ATM Services

- Balance Inquiry
- Bills Payment
- Cash Withdrawal
- Checkbook Request
- Credit Card Cash Advance
- Fast Cash
- Intra/InterBank Fund Transfer
- Megalink Interconnection

Point-of-Sale Services

- Debit Card Authorization (Sale/ Inquiry)
- Credit Card Authorization (Sale)
- Electronic Draft Capture (EDC)

Electronic Data Interchange Services (EDI)

- Remittance of SSS Contribution

Internet Services

- Website Hosting
- E-mail
- Surfing

Other Network Services

- Automated Reconciliation and Claims Tracking Service
- Electronic File Transfer
- Management Information System (MIS) Reports
- ATM/POS Directory Services

**Happy 11th
Anniversary!**

BancNet

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BancNet to hold forum on e-Banking issues

BANCNET, the country's leading electronic network for financial services, is holding its 4th Executive Forum today at 1:30 p.m. at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City. The afternoon event will focus on the theme of "Harnessing the Potentials of e-Commerce and e-Banking" in the Philippines.

Four main platform speakers have been invited to share their learning and proficiencies on the topic. They are Emmanuel Daniel, managing director and editor-in-chief of the Asian Banker Journal, Dirk Leopold, head of mobile commerce for Asia Pacific Brokat Asia Pte Ltd., Ismael G. Estela Jr., senior vice president for Planters Bank, and Allan Tumbaga, vice president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC).

Daniel will review the dynamics of what works or does not work for financial services in Internet world. He will tackle the posturing of the large traditional players on the payments front, the fallout of the dotcom companies, and the small successes of the focused

players in the industry.

Daniel will work at examining developments in several key segments of the industry to draw out some principles which he thinks local banks and payment utility players should base their own decisions in the e-world.

A panel made up of presidents of four of the country's leading banks will live up the discussion and the open forum that follows Daniel's talk.

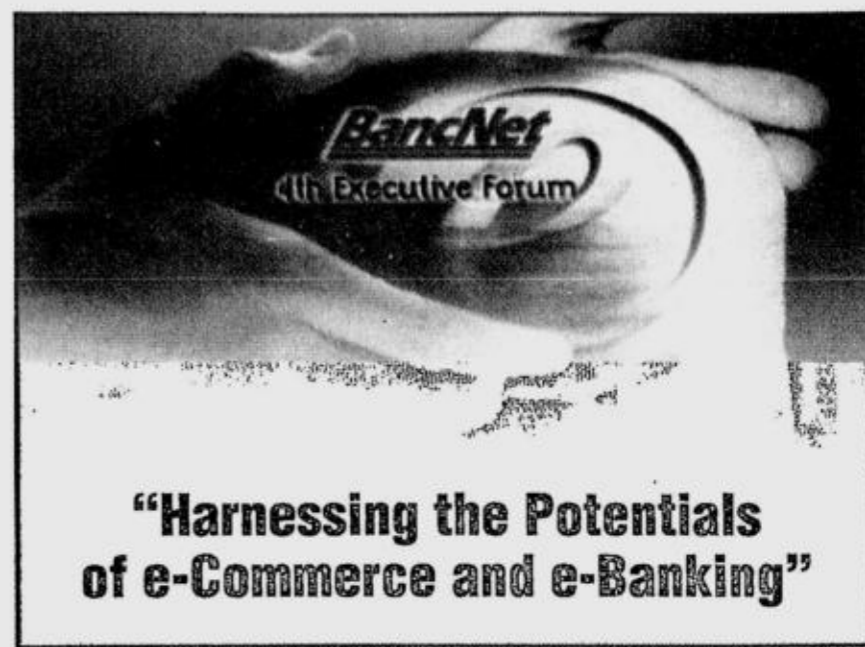
Expected to participate are Isidro C. Alcantara, Jr. of PBCom, Valentin A. Araneta of RCBC, Peter B. Favila of Allied Bank, and Rafael S. Simpao of Security Bank.

Leopold, on the other hand, will present the considerations that spell the success or failure of a consor-

tium-based payment facility such as BancNet. In a payment gateway solution that brings together all the players and delivery channels, Mr. Leopold will show the options when business solutions outweigh technical considerations.

Two local banks will share their initiatives in e-commerce and e-banking services through the persons of Planters Bank's Estela and RCBC's Tumbaga. The two will present lessons learned using two different strategic directions involving clients from retail to corporate customers.

The 4th BancNet Executive Forum is a yearly event sponsored by BancNet and is exclusive to its member banks' executives and invited guests.



"Harnessing the Potentials of e-Commerce and e-Banking"

Making SSS payments easy through BancNet's EDI

BANCNET has continuously provided enhancements and innovations to its basic ATM services. Realizing the need for a faster, more efficient and secure mode of company-to-company exchange of data, it started offering the Electronic Data Interchange System or EDI in the early part of 1999. The electronic transmission of SSS contributions was the first EDI application to be implemented.

The BancNet EDI System (BES) is a browser-based application with an AMTRIX Messaging engine running in a Unix platform. Primary users are the Social Security System, its depository banks in the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines and employers who are clients of BancNet member Banks. The system was designed initially to complement the SSSNet Project of the Social Security System.

The BES-SSSNet basically covers the electronic submission by an employer to the SSS of the Monthly Contribution List (MCL) file, and the corresponding Payment Order message to the employer's depository bank. A copy of the Payment Order message is also sent to SSS' depository bank. The SSS, upon receipt of the MCL file will validate it. If there are errors, the SSS will send a Monthly Contribution Acknowledgment message informing the Employer that there is an error in the MCL file sent. The Employer then corrects and re-sends the MCL file.

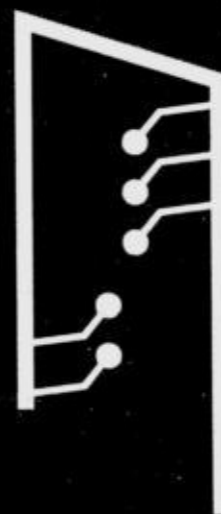
From its modest pilot implementation of 8 employers and 2 depository banks, BancNet's EDI client database has increased to over 400 employer clients and 9 depository banks and is still steadily expanding.

Several reasons have been attributed to this rapid growth. BancNet's efficient delivery of EDI transactions to and from BancNet, the SSS and the depository banks through its web-based application have resulted in the immediate posting of employees' monthly SSS contributions. All this is achieved with no front-end costs for employers since no subscription fee, maintenance charges, and other expenses are imposed.

Member banks are now getting ready to bring in more of their corporate clients into the system with the advent of BancNet's thrust to implement the program over the Internet. This scheme should further boost its client base as employers from far-flung regions can access the system without entailing long distance telephone charges as long as they have a local ISP connection.

Employer companies wanting to avail themselves of this free service may contact BancNet SVP Aris Zafra or Operations Manager Rene Natividad at tel. no. 894-5954 or 818-3264.

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STANDING from left: Ricardo R. Chua, EVP and COO-China Bank; Jose F. Santos, EVP-RCBC; and Angelito M. Villanueva, SEVP-Metrobank. **Seated** from left: Virgilio J. Katigbak, SVP-PBCOM; Francisco M. Caparros, SVP-Asia United Bank; Marilyn F. Suarez, SVP-Merchants Bank; Cecilia A. Irigo, FVP-United Overseas Bank; Rodora E. Baniñares, SVP-Security Bank; Evelyn S. Enriquez, VP-Export & Industry Bank; Juan G. Coreces, BancNet corporate secretary/treasurer-director, Phil. Clearing House; and Anthony T. Robles, SVP-Standard Chartered Bank. **Not in photo** are Peter Favila, president-Allied Bank; Delfin M. Dimagiba, EVP & COO-Banco Filipino; Corazon Estrella, EVP-First E-Bank; Emil Yap III, AVP-Philtrust Bank; Robert Blas, AVP-Citibank N.A.; and Jose Maria Valdez, FVP-Chinatrast Bank.

Photos by MANNY LLANES

Shaping BancNet's services for tomorrow's challenges

FOR ELEVEN years, BancNet's marketing slogan of "Bank Anytime, Everywhere" has captured the essence of its services. In today's fast-growing digital marketplace, people are moving towards the exchange of valuable information, products and services across a network that's fast, cost-efficient and secure. E-commerce is slowly moving from becoming an option to a requirement for most businesses. And true to its mission of being the leading electronic network for the delivery of financial and related services, BancNet has kept pace with these rapidly evolving technologies.

Meet two focussed individuals who influence BancNet's direction towards adapting to the shifts in consumer demands. Chairman Mr. Jose F. Santos, also the EVP at RCBC, and President Mr. Angelito M. Villanueva, Metrobank SEVP, share some of their thoughts as BancNet celebrates 11 successful years.

What would you consider as highlights on BancNet's 11th year?

Jose F. Santos (JFS): The impressive increase in the gross billings of our regular ATM switch transactions and our Point-of-Sale System remains to be the highlight of our operations. To maintain this consistency



JOSE F. Santos, BancNet Chairman of the Board and EVP-RCBC; and **Angelito M. Villanueva**, BancNet President and SEVP-Metrobank

and move on to improved efficiency and service levels, we are regularly monitoring and evaluating BancNet's measures and standards to ensure that we exceed the expectations of our clients and member banks. Aside from the achievements on the regular lines of business like ATM and POS, we are now working on two major projects, the InterBank Fund Transfer and the Payment Gateway System.

Angelito M. Villanueva (AMV): We take pride in launching the first and the only InterBank Fund Transfer service available initially through the ATMs. And also we would like to inform the public that we are already midstream in the setting up of the Payment Gateway System. We consider these two projects as concrete steps of moving into the real e-commerce environment in the country.

What advantages will the IBFT bring?
JFS: The InterBank Fund Transfer Facility is really a major breakthrough and BancNet is very happy to be the first to offer it in the country. The IBFT opens up an entirely new world of convenience to our depositors in terms of moving funds from one account to another.

AMV: The IBFT will accelerate funds transfer in the Philippines because now, you have a real-time gross settlement transaction that transfers money from one BancNet member to another with the simplicity and ease of using any of BancNet's ATMs nationwide.

What factors and organizational strengths do you attribute BancNet's growth into what it is now?

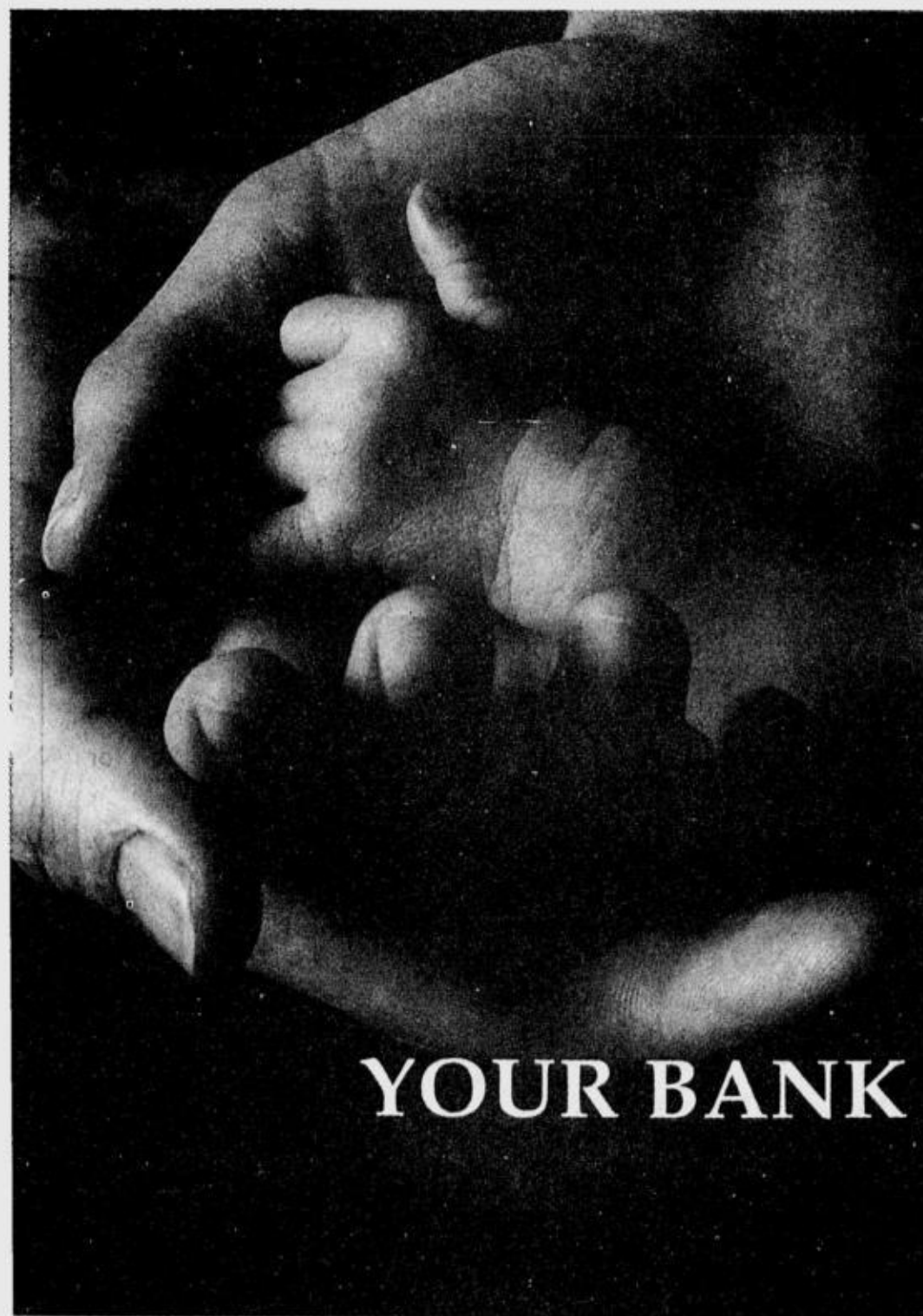
JFS: BancNet really consists of two major sources of strength. One is the lean but highly-productive management and staff of BancNet, which has been performing very well through the years. And the second integral part is really the member banks working together at different levels. We have the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee overseeing the BancNet consortium in terms of setting policy directions and working on strategic issues. You also have very hardworking committees who put into action these plans and programs. But I think one of the major reasons for BancNet's success is that the different member banks through their representation in the Board or different committees have worked very well together achieving synergy.

AMV: We are operating as a cooperative organization although our structure is more of a corporate type of organization. From this, we are able to come up with innovative and applicable ideas from the member banks. Everybody is given the same voice insofar as the drafting and implementing the policies.

Have the mergers and acquisitions involving some of your member banks affected the consortium in any way?

JFS: When our member banks are the acquiring institutions, then the merger

SHAPING/D5



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Raffle promo held for BancNet banks' employees

HERE'S the good news for all BancNet and BancNet member bank employees.

BancNet and BancNet member bank employees still have the chance to win an appliance or entertainment showcase through the ongoing BancNet Family Pamili Promo. With just a few swipes of their BancNet ATM cards when paying at accredited shopping establishments in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Pampanga, they earn a chance to win prizes in the monthly and grand draw.

Ten winners of P10,000 have been drawn for the May monthly draw. For June, five P20,000 cash prizes await the winners to be drawn during the BancNet anniversary party on July 20, 2001 at the Manila Hotel. Other minor prizes to be given away include two home appliance showcases worth P50,000 each.

For the grand prize to be drawn on August 15, 2001, one winner will take home an enter-

tainment showcase consisting of a Sony 29" Flat TV, Sony DVD Component, VHS player, Pioneer VCD Component, and Sharp Karaoke.

The promo, which runs until July 31, 2001, is BancNet's way of encouraging its member banks' employees to use the Point of Sale System or POS. The POS System of BancNet is a complete system of credit card authorization and debit card facilities. Debit card facilities enable cardholders to use their BancNet ATM cards to purchase goods and services from different merchants affiliated by BancNet.

BancNet's POS System has provided the added convenience for cardholders to enjoy cash less shopping. At the same time, the POS has contributed to more sales and efficient handling of payments for the accredited merchants.

Phase II of the promo, to be launched later on, will be open to all BancNet cardholders nationwide with special partner prizes to the cashier/supervisors of the establishments who processed the transactions of the winning cardholders.

33 BancNet Member Banks

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • ABN-AMRO Savings Bank | • Citystate Savings Bank Inc. | • Orion Savings Bank |
| • Allied Banking Corporation | • Dao Heng Bank Inc. (merged with Banco De Oro) | • Philippine Bank of Communications |
| • Asia United Bank Corporation | • East West Banking Corporation | • Philippine Savings Bank |
| • Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank | • Equitable PCIB Bank | • Philippine Trust Company |
| • Bank of Commerce (Panasia Banking Inc.) | • Export and Industry Bank | • Planters Development Bank |
| • Bank of the Philippine Islands (Citytrust) | • First E-Bank | • Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation |
| • Centennial Savings Bank | • Global Business Bank | • RCB Savings Bank |
| • China Banking Corporation | • Malayan Savings and Mortgage Bank | • Security Bank Corporation |
| • Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corporation | • Manila Banking Corporation | • Standard Chartered Bank |
| • Citibank, N.A. - Philippines | • Merchants Bank | • Union Bank of the Philippines (Interbank) |
| | • Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company | • United Overseas Bank Philippines (Westmont Bank) |
| | • Orient Bank (inactive) | |

Shaping BancNet's ...

(From page D4)

works much to our advantage. We now have bigger member banks with a wider network. Of course, some of our member banks have also been acquired but the disadvantage to this is not as great as the benefits M&As have brought to us. Overall, I'd like to think that mergers and acquisitions have changed the competitive environment favorably for BancNet.

AMV: I agree. Mergers and acquisitions have made the consortium stronger now. We see more stable players in the industry and the mergers translate into bigger and better "muscles" for the whole banking institution and in a way for the members that we serve.

Which among BancNet's current services hold the greatest potential in terms of increased patronage in the near future?

JFS: The ATM, which is still the bread and butter product, remains to be very popular. And I believe this has not matured yet so BancNet will continue to grow the business and explore more uses for the ATM and its related products. The newly launched InterBank Fund Transfer will have a very big potential in the future and our going into the Payment Gateway opens the door for BancNet to participate in the different areas of growth through electronic banking.

AMV: As an ATM consortium, it is still the switch itself that has the greatest potential. BancNet has to continue to facilitate transactions not only the ATM itself, but also the conveniences tied into the debit and credit point-of-sale. Additionally, the setting up of the payment gateway will be the avenue for settlement on e-commerce trade in the future.

What opportunities in the market are waiting to be tapped into by BancNet?

AMV: With the changing environment on e-commerce, BancNet would once again want to be first to take advantage of the opportunities in this business and with the cooperation of our member banks, we certainly feel that we already have an edge over the other consortia in the market.

JFS: More than a year ago, we already saw that there will be a lot of growth in electronic banking and so that early, we already made the strategic decision that we go into e-business and e-commerce.

On a lighter note, how do you manage to attend to different roles concurrent to your leadership at BancNet?

JFS: While the responsibility here at BancNet is equally great, I think we already have a good working organizational set-up that enables us to achieve the tasks at hand, such that I can devote quality time for BancNet. This is the same management style I practice with my bank, which is basically a philosophy of empowering people and managing by objectives.

AMV: Simply put, I practice time management and the setting up of priorities. This also allows me to have time to do a lot of reading and surfing the Internet to absorb the trends that shape the future of banking.

What is your message on the occasion of BancNet's 11th anniversary?

JFS: We thank BancNet management and all our member institutions because it is through their efforts and effective working relationship that we have achieved all these different milestones. But true to our slogan of "Non-Stop Banking Network" we will not stop there. Our eleven years of experience provides us the basis to launch better products and services in the future. We look at each anniversary as a springboard into further growth and better synergy among the member banks.

AMV: We look forward to a stronger and better organizational set-up. We are confident that a stronger BancNet will emerge in the future to serve not only our member banks, but also to be at the cutting edge of technology that is responsive to the expanding needs of our growing number of customers. Our organizational structure undergoes a periodic review because we know we should always be steps ahead of the changing environment of banking. For this, we extend our gratitude to all those who continue to support BancNet.

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People, Events & Products

Pfizer wins multiple honors at the Annual Global Pharmaceutical Awards

PFIZER recently won four awards at the Global Pharmaceutical Awards during a ceremony held at the Banqueting House at the Whitehall Palace.

Pfizer's awards were given to acknowledge its innovative philanthropic programs. The first award, the Advancement in the Cause of World Health was granted for the company's work with the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI). ITI is a joint venture between Pfizer and Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. It is a comprehensive treatment and prevention program aimed at eliminating trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness. Initial results from the program have been outstanding, with the prevalence of disease cut in half in some communities.

The second program recognized with the award for community involvement and corporate responsibility, was Pfizer's Brooklyn Redevelopment Initiative (BRI). This ongoing effort to revitalize the neighborhood around the company's manufacturing plant in Brooklyn, New York has resulted in new housing, a new school, lower crime rates, and increased employment.

The Pfizer for the Living (PFL) received an award for the most effective customer relationship management strategy. PFL is a free direct mail and Internet program that has broken new ground in relationship marketing. This program helps cardiovascular patients age 50 and over live healthier by using personalized, customized

and gender-specific information to educate them about various healthcare and lifestyle issues.

The fourth award, prescription drug launch of the year, was awarded to Pfizer's arthritis medicine, Celecoxib (Celebrex). An instant success when it was launched in the United States in 1999, Celebrex repeated its initial success in European markets in 2000.

Chuck Hardwick, vice president for government and public affairs who attended the ceremony, stated that Pfizer people are driven by the relentless pursuit of new and better solutions to the world's ills. "We are dedicated to using the products of research to improve the health and well-being of mankind. Also, our commitment to community involvement is an intrinsic part of culture. These awards reflect caring and compassion, which are core to who we are and what we do. They also reflect our recognition that Pfizer's success is inextricably linked to the quality of life and economic vibrancy of our society and the communities in which we operate," he added.

Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. It is a union between Pfizer Inc. and Warner-Lambert, two companies that have defined excellence in healthcare. This year, Pfizer is investing \$5 billion for research and development.



GLOBE'S INTERCONNECT PACT WITH PLDT, PAPTELCO

Leading communications carrier Globe Telecom signed recently separate interconnection agreements with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and the Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies. The revised agreements simplify the revenue-sharing arrangement for local and national calls by having a single charging plan. Effective July 1, PLDT has to pay Globe P6.50 per minute for access to its cellular network. The rate will be reduced to P4.50 per minute by Jan. 1, 2002. For calls from the Globe mobile phone network to PLDT, the charge is P2 per minute. The two parties also agreed to pay an access charge of US\$0.08 per minute for international calls to landlines and for those passing through their respective international gateway facilities. For international traffic from PLDT to Globe's cellular network, payment is US\$0.12 per minute beginning Oct. 1, 2001. For the Paptelco, Globe has made a special arrangement to assist the small operators and the government in providing basic telephone service in the countryside. Shown with National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) chief Eliseo M. Rio Jr. (middle) are (from left) Marilita B. Ramos, Paptelco VP-Luzon; lawyer Ramon S. Santiago, PLDT 1st VP for interconnection; Eric L. delos Reyes, Paptelco president; Armi Jane Borje, NTC deputy commissioner; lawyer Rodolfo A. Salalima, Globe SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs; and John W. Young, Globe VP for carrier business.



EPLDT SIGNS MOU WITH BANCNET

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was recently signed between ePLDT and BancNet to collaborate on possible synergies for the PLDT Visa Cash Card. Shown signing the MOU are (from left) PLDT senior vice president Claro Carmelo P. Ramirez, ePLDT co-managing director Ariel A. Roda, ePLDT co-managing director lawyer Ray C. Espinosa, BancNet chair Jose F. Santos, BancNet president Angelito M. Villanueva and BancNet senior vice president and COO Aristeo F. Zafra Jr.

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UST Hospital's disability prevention week

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) will celebrate the 23rd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week on July 17 to 23 at the AMRC-CD at the 4th floor of the clinical division. The event aims to focus on the positive side of disability as well as to educate the public on the prevention of diseases such as osteoporosis, arthritis and scoliosis. The A. Mabini Rehabilitation Center of USTH will have activities catering to various sectors of society, among them an art contest for the disabled. Lay fora will also be held on low back pain and rehabilitation care in arthritis care. Osteoporosis and scoliosis screenings will be conducted during the event. Call USTH at 731-3001 loc. 2432/2297/2488 for details.

Catering seminar set

THOSE who plan to start or manage a catering business are invited to ProActive Center for Training's (PACT) Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop on July 16-24 at Encore! Encore!, 2/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from 1 to 5 p.m. The seven-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements; napkin folding and table skirting among others. Trainers are foodservice consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division on Chefs on Parade. For details call 823-4947, cel. 0919-5500601, or e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit the PACT website at www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

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